

SETON HALL'S ASIAN VOICE

FALL 2013

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WELCOME BACK*Welcome from the Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures*

Zhang Yunyun, presented me with a beautiful silk tie

As the new Chair of the Languages, Literatures & Cultures Department, I was delighted to be invited to meet with the delegation from Changzhou, China, when they visited Seton Hall this semester. We had a wide-ranging conversation and enjoyed lunch on campus. The delegation, led by Vice Mayor

as a memento of their visit, and I recently received from her my very first Lunar New Year card, featuring drawings of traditional Chinese scenes and beautiful calligraphy.

We also look forward to welcoming back to Dr. Shigeru Osuka, who was on sabbatical this semester at the University of Tokyo. I am looking forward to the events of China Night on Feb. 11th, and Japan Week, April 7-11, 2014, and hope that the students, colleagues and community members will come to participate in these memorable events.

A Message from the Director of Graduate Studies

Shryll Whittaker presented her research paper at the 42nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference (MAR/AAS) hosted by the University of Delaware in November. She also completed her MA thesis on the study of Confucius Institutes, the Chinese Culture and

Fall 2013 has been very productive for our graduate students. Si Chen, Fengyu Cheng, Wenwen Gou, Siqi Hu, Michael Paultz, Jingyang Qin, and Shryll Whittaker graduated from Seton Hall's Masters Program.

language school system established throughout the United States. In service to the greater New Jersey and New York community, 16 students in the Masters Programs' *Methods of Teaching Chinese/Japanese* class succeeded in performing 30 or more hours of service learning in various local schools in the K-16 setting, contributing their expertise and time to students learning Chinese and Japanese languages while giving back to the community. Finally, congratulations are in order for Chinese Teaching Track students Siqi Hu and Xu Xu, who were accepted for an internship in United Nations, starting in January 2014 and a position teaching Chinese at Duke University for Spring 2014 respectively.

A Message from the Editors

Welcome to the Fall 2013 edition of the Asian Voice. This semester we would like to congratulate our recent graduates and welcome our new students and faculty members. We also wish to extend a warm welcome to our new full-time faculty member Professor Liang-Hua Yu, Ph.D. candidate at New York University.

This has been a very active academic semester and all of the Asian Studies students have been working hard around campus. This issue will present you with the work they are doing and the events they are coordinating and participating in on campus. We hope you enjoy this brief portrayal of Seton Hall's vibrant Asian Studies Community.

Sabbatical Report from Dr. Shigeru Osuka



Photo taken at Korankyo, Aichi, Japan.

Greetings from Japan. I am enjoying beautiful autumn scenery of Tokyo. I am taking sabbatical leave during the fall semester of 2013 and affiliate at the Historiographical Institute, University of Tokyo, Japan for the purpose of pursuing my book project, tentatively entitled the *Essentials of Buddhist Terms in Japanese Language and Culture*. This book project requires research and writing which would not be possible while teaching full-time during the normal academic semester. There is no book in the

English speaking countries explaining the frequently spoken and used

Buddhist terms in daily Japanese conversation. In the proposed book, approximately 500 basic Buddhist terms are carefully selected and introduced. The contents consist of the origin of word/language root, original meaning, current meaning, and useful expressions written in both English and Japanese. The publication of the book will fulfill the void and offers new teaching material for students who are interested in learning Japanese language and culture, and Japanese religions and Buddhist studies.

International Month—Japanese Program Event Highlights



On October 28th, Dr. Shigeru Osuka, professor of Japanese studies, gave a talk about the history of popular Japanese snack foods. He explored the various flavors of Japanese snacks and provided an example snack for students to try, for example, he contrasted salty and sweet flavored snacks by offering shōyu senbei, a soy sauce flavored rice cracker, with ama nattō, a traditional Japanese sweet made of azuki beans. Through tasting these snacks, students had the opportunity to explore the Japanese concept of umami, which can be translated to English as

“pleasant savory taste.” Afterwards, a screening of the 2011 documentary “Jiro Dreams of Sushi” followed. “Jiro Dreams of Sushi” follows Jiro Ono, an 85-year-old sushi master and owner of Sukiyabashi Jiro, a Michelin three-star restaurant, on his continuing quest to perfect the art of sushi.

On October 10th, Professor Hiroko Ishikawa held an Origami workshop as a part of Seton Hall’s International Month. After providing a history of the art form, Professor Ishikawa spoke briefly on the 1000 Paper Crane Project in support of the 2008 Tsunami victims. Finally, students were given a tutorial on how to make the popular origami crane and were encouraged to make cranes of their own.

On October 8th, the Japanese program also held the annual sushi workshop. As always,

there was great turnout from both students and staff alike. Mr. Takahashi, owner of Wasabi Japanese restaurant in Ridgewood, NJ, has been doing this event at Seton Hall for a bit more than a decade now, starting with a presentation about the history of sushi and its introduction to the United States in the 1980s. Those who attended the event learned about the proper way of eating sushi as well as the different types of sushi and rolls.

In addition to the well-known California roll, Mr. Takahashi arrived with four trays of pre-prepared rolls, including spicy tuna, eel, and salmon. Rare items such as a specially imported tuna straight from Japan, were also available at the workshop as well. Mr. Takahashi made nigirizushi and temakizushi during the workshop. Luckily for the attendees, everyone present had the opportunity to partake in second and even third helpings of Mr. Takahashi’s sushi.



Beijing Opera Event

Erick Puma, Class of 2015

The Beijing Opera Event was a truly memorable learning opportunity for students at Seton Hall University.

Students had the opportunity to meet two members of the New York Chinese Traditional Art Center (NYCTAC). Based in Queens, NYCTAC is responsible for holding workshops and perfor-

mances of Peking Opera, throughout the greater New York area.

NYCTAC performers Wang Fei and William Chunnuan were kind enough to explain the history of Peking Opera from its inception to the present. The performers then demonstrated the movements and practices common to Peking Opera shows. Wang then explained the routine which since become my personal favorite piece entitled



“Crossroad.” This performance was a mime-based routine of two men engaging in hand-to-hand combat in the dark of night. Strangely enough, the effect of darkness was not conveyed through any stage effects, but through the motions of the performers alone. The performance spanned from humorous to suspenseful while employing opulent

makeup and costumes for a truly visual routine interspersed throughout with acrobatic routines.

Prior to this event, I had been fortunate enough to see an Peking Opera performance at Seton Hall’s annual China Night once before. However, the eye-catching costumes and entertaining physical routines make Peking Opera a true spectacle worth experiencing every time.



Interview with Professor Cynthia Fellows

Professor Cynthia Fellows is a beloved professor of the Asian Studies Program. She teaches both Chinese language courses as well as area studies courses such as “China and the U.S.,” which is offered through Asian Studies Program here at Seton Hall.

Besides the teaching duties, Prof. Cynthia is also very active in engaging extra-curricular events which promotes Chinese lan-

guage and culture at Seton Hall, including this year’s Chinese Calligraphy Workshop.

Question: What do you like most about teaching Chinese language courses?

Helping students have those “ah-ha” moments when what they have learned starts to pull together. The more of those that there are, I figure, the

greater the chance that they will become life-time learners of the language.

Question: Do you have any thoughts or reflections on the challenge of learning a foreign language in general?

The all-too-prevalent myth that “learning is fun, fun, fun!” has been a great disservice to generations of American students. Let’s not kid ourselves: Truly

effective learning is work and requires battling the natural human tendency towards laziness and procrastination. Learning is “fun” after the fact—when you have actually learned something.

Obviously as a teacher you try to make the process less painful than it need be; but there simply is no substitute for putting in both the effort and the time.

International Students' Thanksgiving Gathering



This year, international students from the Asian Studies Program spent Thanksgiving in Dr. Dongdong Chen's house. Students enjoyed her homemade dishes, fun games, sang songs together, and had lots of meaningful conversation.

These students, being far away from their hometowns, were treated like family members and friends of Dr. Chen. Dr. Chen's hospitality not only made the students happy and appreciative for her, but also encouraged and motivated the students for the future life.

Graduate Students Visit the Newark Arts Museum and Chinatown

Clarence H. Seniors,
M.A. '15



On October 18, 2013, a group of Asian Studies graduate students, led by Professor Edwin Pak-wah Leung, enjoyed a visit to the Newark Arts Museum and the Old Newark Chinatown. The group was greeted by Yoland Skeete, the center's Founder and Director who gave the group a lecture centered on her extensive Newark Chinatown collection archived at the Center. Yoland Skeete began the Newark Chinatown History project upon hearing of Newark's Chinatown. To recover the largely

forgotten history of the neighborhood and the people who had once lived there, Skeete embarked on an ambitious archival and archaeological research project and had artists build models of businesses and restaurants. As part of

her research, she scoured local churches, public libraries, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the New Jersey Historical Society for records and xeroxed or photographed documents to begin a collection. She spearheaded an

archeological dig of the area, unearthing artifacts from Newark's Chinatown, some of which are found in the collection. The aim is to raise awareness about the Chinese community and these valuable materials.. The group also took a walk down Mulberry Street - walking past the Seton Hall Law School and NJPAC. The group ended up at the Newark Arts Museum for a docent tour of the MING TO MODERN EXHIBITION. Most of the works entered the museum before 1941 but have never been displayed. This was the first time at the Newark Museum that they were on view to the public.

Dr. Edwin Pak-wah Leung Offers Panel Discussion on Contemporary China

As a part of International Month Dr. Leung hosted Discussion On Monday October 21st, a panel discussion was held in the Chancellor's Suite regarding the Chinese President Xi Jinping. The discussion, sponsored by the Chinese Students and Schol-

ars Association, featured talks from Dr. Jason Yin of Stillman School, Dr. Edwin Pak-Leung of Asian Studies, Dr. Yinan He of the Diplomacy School and Guest Speaker Professor Salvatore Cordo. Followed by an open discussion with questions from the students, the presenta-

tion centered on the political, economic and cultural implications of the new Chinese President's inauguration and future goals. Students gained a better understanding of 21st Century Chinese politics and society in a changing political climate.



Guest Lecturer from Columbia University



On October 17th, graduate students from method of teaching Chinese and Japanese class enjoyed a lecture about using translation as a method of teaching a second language.

Professor C.P. Sobleman, who has taught Chinese for several decades, stated that translation is useful in teaching Chinese language. However, whether or not this method is useful

depends on how the instructor teaches the class. By learning the examples of using the translation method, students understood how to apply this method into practice.

This lecture was a good opportunity for the students who would like to become language teachers to learn and share experience of teaching methods.

Chinese Calligraphy Workshop

Brittany Ziobron, Class of 2017

I attended a workshop on Chinese calligraphy knowing almost nothing about its history and beauty. I began practicing characters that I knew and was soon able to produce a few sentences in Chinese on the sheets such as “I am American,” and “I love you”.

These were written in the traditional vertical style instead of left to right. Attending this workshop enhanced not only my knowledge of Chinese characters, but also the beauty and discipline it takes to master this ancient tradition. The calligraphy that I made is now hanging on the walls of my dorm room!



Summer Abroad Experience—Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan



Kyle Hilton, M.A. '14

While studying Japanese I learned of the opportunity to study in Japan during the

summer and was enthralled with the idea. I was excited for the opportunity because I knew that while I loved learning about Japanese culture, I had only been getting one

side of the big picture. I needed to go there for myself and experience Japanese culture outside of the textbook. Some time after graduation I came back to Seton Hall for my Masters in Asian Studies. When the time came I jumped on the application for the Seton Hall – Sophia Summer Exchange Program. I was thrilled to be able to attend Sophia University and was impressed not only with the staff but the institution as a whole. After attending classes at the university we would explore the many locations of Japan, places I'd never imagined I'd see.

While I was in Japan I even had some wonderful first-time experiences. I got to go to a Noh play, sit at my very first baseball game and even got to go to Disney for the first time. Some of my absolute favorite places were Akihabara, where I found myself lost in all the amazing little shops and department stores, Kamakura, where I got to see and step inside the Great Buddha I had read about so many times before, Tokyo Bay where I got to see an amazing fireworks display and even Mt. Fuji, everything just came together to create an experience I will be sure to remember for as long as I live.

Call for Papers

The **12th New York International Conference on Teaching Chinese** is accepting abstracts relevant to CULTURAL Competence; TECHNOLOGICAL Competence; PEDAGOGICAL Competence; LINGUISTIC competence; and PROGRAMMATIC competence. The event will be held at NYU's Kimmel Center May 3rd-4th. Visit <http://clta-gny.org/14conf/14conf.html> for more details.

The **43rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference** will be held at Hofstra University on Sept. 18-20, 2014. Presentation topics may include, but are not limited to, the following: Notions of hybridity; Diaspora and migration; Global Asian cosmopolitanisms/transnational cultures; Impact of globalization.

The deadline for submission of proposals for individual papers, panels, and roundtables is April 7, 2014. For more details, please visit the link, (<http://maraas.org/maraas43/>).

Note: If you present your paper at these conferences, the Asian Studies Graduate Student Travel Fund will cover your conference registration and transportation fee.

Obituary for Dr. John Young (South Orange, NJ)

John Young, a Japanese scholar at Georgetown University, University of Hawaii, and Seton Hall University, who was an interpreter for Gen. Douglas MacArthur after World War II and later the co-author of widely used textbooks for teaching the Japanese language, died in peace on Sept. 8 at a hospital in Livingston, N.J. He was 93 years old. After the WWII, when Japan was occupied by Allied forces led by MacArthur, Dr. Young worked as an interpreter for the general. In his role as an interpreter,

Dr. Young came to Wash-

ington D.C. in 1946 as a member of a Chinese delegation to an international commission to determine postwar policies in Japan. He received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in 1949 and 1951, respectively, and a Doctorate in history from Johns Hopkins University in 1955.

Dr. Young taught Japanese history and language at Georgetown until 1962, then spent two years teaching in Japan at a branch of the University of Maryland. He taught at the University of Hawaii from 1964 to 1974. He began in the 1960s

to publish the first of series Japanese textbooks, *Learn Japanese: New College Text*, Vol. 1-3. The books, written with several authors, included instruction for elementary through college-level students and were used in hundreds of schools throughout the United States.

Dr. Young had been affiliated with Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., since 1974 where he directed an Asian bilingual curriculum development program for the U.S. Department of Education. After retiring from Seton Hall in 1990, Dr. Young returned to Georgetown for a year in 1994. In recent years, Dr. Young was a founding member and executive director



of the Committee of 100, an organization of prominent Chinese Americans that provides a cultural and intellectual forum for Chinese concerns. Survivors include his wife, Byoung-Hye Chang of West Orange, N.J.; three children, Alice Young of Little Falls, N.J., and Nancy Young and Peter Young, both of New York; two brothers, Jackson Yang of Highland and George Yang of San Gabriel, CA; and five grandchildren.

Join the Asian Studies Association

If you wish to join the Asian Studies Association, please contact Myra Reyes at myra.reyes@student.shu.edu

or

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