

# 2026 SHU Japanese Digital Storytelling Awards

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

11:30 p.m. -12:15 p.m.

Fahy Hall Room 203C

## Award Presenters

Jonathan Farina, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Christopher Kaiser, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Mary Balkun, Department English/Japan Week Committee

Peter Shomaker, Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Jessica Wilson, Director, Global Learning Center

Shigeru Osuka, Director, Japanese Program

The Japanese Program has integrated technology into its language curriculum and encourages students to apply digital tools whenever possible. Since 2009, the program has emphasized the use of Digital Storytelling, a creative method that combines Japanese essay writing with visual images and voice narration to produce a short video. Through this process, students develop not only their Japanese language proficiency but also their digital literacy and creative expression. By integrating language learning with multimedia production, Digital Storytelling provides students with an opportunity to communicate personal experiences, cultural insights, and global perspectives in Japanese. In recognition of students' hard work, dedication, and continued commitment to engaging with the global community, the Japanese Program is pleased to announce the following awardees of the 2026 Japanese Digital Storytelling Awards.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Major</b>
<b>Frist Year Japanese</b>		
Santiago Avellaneda	Senior	Biology
Therion (TJ) Epie-Alobwede	Sophomore	Visual and Sound Media
Shane Holden	Freshman	Diplomacy and International Relations
King Kamimura	Sophomore	Philosophy
Damian Ortiz	Sophomore	Sports Media
Catherine Simpson	Sophomore	English
Ashlee Yamzon	Sophomore	Allied Health
<b>Second Year Japanese</b>		
Ryan Gordon	Freshman	Political Sciences
Vyan Patel	Sophomore	Finance
Jake Redila	Sophomore	Asian Studies
<b>Advanced Japanese</b>		
Tyler Hummel	Junior	Diplomacy & International Relations
Erick Seibel	Junior	Asian Studie