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Li Kang, M.A. '19 *Co-Editor*
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Department of Asian Studies Class of 2018 Graduates



On May 18th, the College of Arts and Science held the Graduate Commencement and Hooding Ceremony at the university gym. The Asian Studies Program also provided refreshments for the participating graduates and their visiting families and friends. Congratulations to all our graduates and best of luck on all your future endeavors! The following received MA degree in Asian Studies in the academic year of 2018-19: Jiani Dai, Li Kang, Leemu Madison, Nicole M O'Connor, Pengxiu Sun, Yunfei Wang, Xiang Wei, Chaoran Zheng.
Hazard Zet Forward.

Welcome from the Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures



Spring 2019 was an eventful semester for the Asian Studies Program. It started with a Trip to China Town in Manhattan, where a group of students of Chinese experienced the Lunar New Year celebration. The Japan Week, (April 1- April 5) featured lecture, workshop, movie, etc., climaxed with a symposium in which some graduate students presented their research on Japanese cultural aspects. The month of April enlivened the SHU community with some jubilant events, from Chinese speech contest to Japanese digital storytelling, from Chinese cultural project contest for New Jersey high school students to Ping Pong Diplomacy game for both faculty and students, organized in conjunction with the Department of English and the Center for Faculty Development. In early May four Chinese Teaching Track students gave well-received presentations at the 13th New York International Conference on Teaching Chinese held at New York University. Last but certainly not the least, eight graduate students successfully graduated on May 18.

A Message from the Director of Graduate Studies



This year's winter has been unusually cold and long, and all of spring's flowers have suddenly blossomed in April. The most notable events of this semester were Japan Week, Chinese Speech Contest, and Multi-cultural day. Through such events, students and members of the Seton Hall community have an opportunity to take part in cultural experiences as well as intellectual dialogues on current global concerns. These events have also raised awareness about issues of Asian cultures and societies which could bridge the gap between East and West, promote mutual understanding and educate our student to be a global citizen. In an effort to continue such cultural involvement year round, I encourage students to take advantage of the many wonderful study abroad programs to China and Japan which Seton Hall offers. Finally, congratulations to all the graduates of 2019. Best Wishes for your wonderful life.

Remarks from the Undergraduate Advisor of the Asian Studies Program



Happy Spring! As we come to the end of another exciting year of Asian Studies, I wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you and farewell to two colleagues who made welcome contributions to the Asian Studies program this year. Dr. Song Yeol Han has done a great job teaching courses on Modern Asia and Modern China this year, as well as occasionally dropping in on the Korean club. As he moves on to pursue other opportunities, we wish him all the best. Frank Huang, our visiting scholar from Wuhan University, has been an active participant in many department activities including the panel at the Conference on Women and Gender Studies, the outing to the Chinese Scholars' Garden, and the starring role in the ping-pong diplomacy event. We were fortunate to have him here as part of the Wuhan – SHU scholar exchange program. And of course, to all of our graduating seniors and masters' students, 萬事如意, 一路平安!

A Trip to China Town, By Li Kang



Do you want to experience an authentic Chinese New Year in the U.S.? A trip to Chinatown might be a great choice. On February 1st, the SHU Chinese program organized a trip to Chinatown located in New York City. Students had a great time during the journey. They had already started exploring the Chinese New Year on the way to the Chinatown. They had a mission to capture “fu” (福) during the journey and the first 5 who took 5 pictures of character “fu” would get special gifts. As a result, they were searching for fortunes in every corner. Even sitting in the restaurant, they kept looking for the fortune. However, with the appearance of Chinese dishes, students turned to the foods on the table. It is a Cantonese restaurant which is known for Dim Sum. Shrimp dumplings, Xiaolongbao, sweet cream buns, spring rolls, all these foods were their favorite. And everybody enjoyed the foods. Some of them only might experience the Chinese in the textbooks, but all of them experienced authentic Chinese flavors and Chinese traditions during this trip.

NJATJ Japanese Language and Culture Study Award Ceremony

New Jersey Association of Teacher of Japanese (NJATJ) awarded the following six SHU students for the NJATJ 2019 Japanese Language and Cultural Study Award. The ceremony was held at Seton Hall University campus on March 8, 2019. This year, 56 recipients from 21 high schools and universities have been honored with the award. The ceremony began with greetings from Kristin Wingate, President of NJATJ, and Tomofumi Horiki, Consul of the Consulate General of Japan in New York City, who congratulated the recipients for their hard work. Each recipient of the award made a short speech on the benefits of learning Japanese. Following the ceremony, the Japanese Club Dance Team of High Tech high school performed a traditional Japanese dance called “Sorani Bushi” (the Fisherman’s Dance). After the performance, the Dance Team taught the award winners and audience members the dance. The NJATJ also held a workshop on reaching target language regarding ACTFL standards after the ceremony.



Name

Nassim Amro
Sofia Calvo-Castillo
Ciana Vrtikapa
Caitlyn T. Neville
Nadia Meshkati
Joshua H. Tan

Year

Sophomore
Sophomore
Sophomore
Junior
Senior
Senior

Major

Diplomacy and International Relations
Diplomacy and International Relations
Anthropology
Psychology
Psychology
Political Science

Karuta: Traditional Card Game from Portugal

Karuta is a card game that originated from Portugal. It has been popular with the Japanese since 16th century. Karuta is a one-on-one card game, facilitated by a reciter (card reader) and a judge. Each player randomly selects 25 of the 50 tori-fuda cards that are also randomly selected from a total of 100, and places them face-up in three rows in his or her territory. Following the introductory poem, the reciter reads one of the 100 yomifuda. As soon as the players recognize which yomi-fuda is being read, they race to find and touch the corresponding tori-fuda. The first player to touch the tori-fuda "takes" the card and removes it from play. The first player to get rid of all the cards in their territory wins.

Hosted by Joshua H. Tan, president, the Asian Cultural Association on April 1st during Japan Week 2019, participants first learned the history and rules of this traditional card game. Following the presentation on the history of Karuta, attendees were invited to learn the rules to play against each other. Winner, Mikalia Morris, was rewarded with her own deck of Karuta cards and snacks. All participants enjoyed the traditional game.



Ping Pong Tournament in Seton Hall, By Jidong Zhang



On April 18, we participated in a Ping Pong competition at Seton Hall organized by the English Department and Asian Studies Program. Participants were required to beat Frank Huang, our current Wuhan-Seton Hall Exchange Scholar to win the gift. However, Frank was too strong to beat, his skills was amazing, every challenger was stunned. This activity enhanced our communication with US students and I got my new friends David and Frank. It let me recall the Ping Pong Diplomacy in history, because China and US also became friends in this way. Ping Pong is a very popular sports in China. Most Chinese people learned and played Ping Pong since they were young. In my home-city, every primary school would set up an amateur table tennis course after class and provide professional coach to instruct children. We sincerely hope that Ping Pong will be as popular as NBA, and Sino-US relations get stronger. The Ping Pong diplomacy is a great event at SHU and hopeful that it will continue to the next academic year.

Chinese Speech Contest, By Sherry Chen



This spring semester many students and faculty gathered together to attend the Chinese Speech Contest held by the Chinese Department. This event was created for students taking different levels of Chinese. It was the perfect event for students to shine and show off the amazing amount of Chinese they've learned through the semester. Students were also able to reflect on their own Chinese by listening and talking to other students. Students were able to eat Chinese food and engage with other students taking Chinese. During the Speech Contest, the first group of students were asked to make a one-minute speech about anything they wanted. Some choose to talk about their summer plans. Others wanted to talk about themselves or their love for noodles. Group two were asked to pick a famous person and gave the audience five clues for them to guess the person. Group three performed a play about “Mr. 差不多”(Mr. Whatever). Group four were asked to act like a news reporter. This event was a perfect way for students to experience Chinese culture while improving their Chinese.

“Does this Spark Joy?,” By Ciana Vrtikapa and Samuel Stolle

During Japan Week 2019, on Wednesday, April 3rd from 2:00pm to 3:10pm, students sat down with Dr. Anne Giblin Gedacht, History Department and Acting Director of Japanese Program, to tidy up their perception on the historical impact of Marie Kondo. Marie Kondo recently came out with her Netflix Show, Tidying Up with Marie Kondo. The show swept across America and made its presence in many different newspapers. For many, the perspective of minimalism lead to the belief that Japan is able to maintain a sperate identity from the modern capitalism that is growing globally.

Dr. Gedacht posed that the minimalism and tidying that Marie Kondo preaches may instead have more to do with historical economic and cultural conditions in Japan than with anything uniquely Japanese. She further entertainingly and insightfully incorporated interviews with everyday Japanese denizens and clips from American pop culture in her lecture, weaving together a comprehensive tapestry of how people perceive Marie Kondo along with her message. Seton Hall University’s Japan Week 2019 Committee presented Dr. Gedacht an award in recognition of her contributions to Japan Week for hosting an even three years in a row.



2019 Chinese Cultural Project Contest, By Di Chen



Chinese program in conjunction with NJCCSF organized The 13th Chinese Cultural Project Contest. It was held on April 27 in

Bethany Hall. Six teams of high school students selected as finalists have competed for three prizes. More than 60 people attended the event. The topic of this contest this year was “How Are Chinese and American Cultures Reflected in Their Holiday Food?”. Contestants from Edison High School demonstrated how to make hot Chinese dumplings and cool American hamburgers to us, which has a very sharp contrast on the food temperature and the way of eating it. But in the end they draw the conclusion that regardless of national boundaries, delicious food is the world's food. Contestants from J P Stevens High School all came from Chinese immigrant family, so they used their family stories on how to celebrate the festivals of two different cultures to show their understandings of the collision of different cultures. All the six teams had their own peculiarities, accept the cooking demonstration, family stories, elements of ancient Chinese poems, and self-made Chinese song, etc. After the creative and extraordinary performance of each team, Edison High School got the first prize, J P Stevens High School and Hunterdon Central Regional High School came in second and third respectively. During the Luncheon, I talked with the four participants from Edison High School. They told me that they have a deeper understanding about Chinese culture, especially Chinese food culture after the game. Chinese food connects Chinese people closely with the concept of family, and gradually spreads this culture around the world through Chinese cuisine today.

The Diverse Flavors of Miso, By Nadia Meshkati

Shiro miso, aka miso and many more! Students were able to taste the various types of miso at this event on April 4 at 11:00 am. Skye Osuka, a graduate student in the M.A. Asian Studies program, gave an informational presentation on the creation of miso. While being educating on the numerous kinds of miso that the people in Japan consume, students were able to sample those exact flavors right there in the room. With four different types of miso, students were instructed to spread the miso on a cucumber slice and eat it like that. In America, we often consume miso soup when dining at a Japanese restaurant. However, it was a first for many to try miso on a cucumber slice, including myself.

While indulging in the miso-cucumber slices, students were asked to describe what it was that they tasted. Many were unable to explain the flavors they were experiencing, however, some found the taste to be intense. Afterwards, Skye was able to give an accurate description of the taste of miso, and it all started with one word: umami. When we learn about different flavors in America, we learn about sweet, salty, sour, and bitter. However, we often go over “umami”, which can be also described as savory. This is a key feature of Japanese cuisine and many Japanese children are taught about umami while in grade school. This miso-tasting event may have been a first exposure to the term “umami” for some students. After the educational presentation, everyone in attendance was able to eat miso soup and onigiri (Japanese rice balls). Overall, this was an exciting and informational event for those in attendance, and we look forward to many more events from the Asian Studies Program.



Amazing Experience, By Yunlin Zhou

On May 6th, the 17th Chinese Language Teachers Association of Greater New York International Conference was held at New York University!

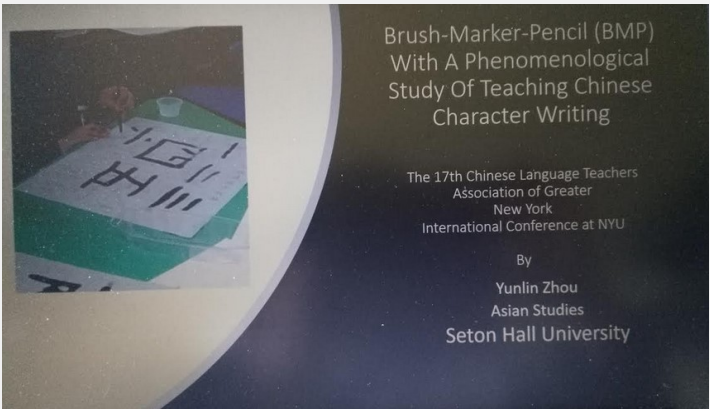
Based on my study at SHU and years of teaching Chinese, I was so proud to share my current research about Brush-Marker-Pencil (BMP), a new method of teaching and learning Chinese character writing for L-2. Although there were a few topics about how to teach Chinese Character writing for L2, my research with Brush-Marker-Pencil new method caught many audients' attention. From the discussion, I have learned that how to teach Chinese character writing is not just a big issue for K-12 teaching but also University level teaching.

After the section, there were some K-12 teachers came to me to share their teaching experience. They said that they have also started to use Chinese brush to teach L-2 students to learn how to write Chinese, but they never thought about using the Brush-Marker-Pencil, the three stages practice for L-2 students.

They invited me to their school to give a demonstration to their students. Some college teachers said that even though college students now spent more time in practicing listening and speaking than reading and writing

Chinese, using an effective way to practice writing Chinese should be very important because they feel that the practice of Chinese writing should help students improve their listening, speaking and reading skills.

It was an amazing experience for me through not just to share my own research, but also learning more from other teachers through exchanging new ideas, and most importantly making new friends during the conference. All SHU presenters had presented high level of contents, led by Dr. Dongdong Chen' guidance.



The 22nd Annual Graduate Symposium on Japanese Studies



On April 5th, eight graduate students presented their academic research papers at the 22nd Annual Graduate Symposium at Seton Hall University. Dr. Yuki Terazawa, associate professor of history at Hofstra University, delivered a keynote speech on “Regenerating knowledge in the Area of Social Studies of Science (STS) for public use: The roles of academic researchers in the Fukushima disaster and the redress of the survivors of eugenics-based forced sterilization.” Dr. Terazawa received BA from Ochanomizu University, MA from New York University, and Ph.D. from UCLA. She works in diverse academic fields, encompassing Japanese History, Gender Studies, Asian American History, and Social Studies of Science (STS). She published the Knowledge, Power, and Women's Reproductive Health in Japan, 1690-1945 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018). Eight presenters were Nicole M O'Connor, Huichao Zhen, Di Chen, Shohei Yamayoshi, Jiani Dai, Gerald DeMattia, S. Skye Osuka, and Spencer A Hinton. All participants had learned from each other and enjoyed this great learning opportunity. For details regarding this event, please see Japan Week website.

A trip to Chinese Scholar Garden, By Natalie Sherman

On April 12, the Chinese Program at Seton Hall travelled to the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden on Staten Island. It seems like an unlikely destination to learn about China, but Snug Harbor is actually the site of one of three authentic Chinese Scholar's Gardens in the United States, and it is the only one on the east coast. Chinese Scholar's Gardens show unique elements of Chinese philosophy and history and are a window into how ancient Chinese society viewed the natural world. Over 20 participants had a great one day experience in New York and had a wonderful and relaxing Chinese learning experience.



Japanese Small Business and Successor Problem



On April 2, Yusuke Osuga of Shoko Chukin Bank Japan presented a sociological issue Japan is facing. He was born in 1983 in Tokyo and joined Shoko Chukin Bank in 2006. For the first ten years, he was in charge of screening and financing small and medium enterprises in Tokyo and Shizuoka prefecture. He later transferred to HR in 2016. He has received a BA in Commerce from Keio University and is planning to complete his MBA from Monroe College in Spring 2019. As Japan's population continues to decline, small-mid scale enterprises are facing the issue of who will take over the business. Mr. Osuga, being a banker for small to mid scale bankers, sees the successor issue first hand. He concludes that Japan needs to enforce appealing immigration laws to replenish the depleting workforce to combat the issue of lacking a successor.

Farewell Luncheon for Naoya Kurosawa



On April 19, the LLC Global Learning Center and the Japanese Program hosted a farewell luncheon for Naoya Kurosawa, an exchange student from Sophia University during the 2018-2019 school year. He majored in Diplomacy and International Relations and served as a Japanese Language tutor the past school year. He performed piano at SOPAC, South Orange and is well recognized for his jazz piano skill. During his stay at SHU, he took Intermediate French which he intend to use for his careers in the near future. Naoya enjoyed sushi, as he looked back at his time at Seton Hall. One thing he felt as a culture-shock, was that men and female wear socks under the slipper and openly wear it in the public. He does not understand the need to wear socks when wearing slippers and thinks it is a questionable attire to walk around in public. We wish Naoya safe travels back to Japan, and best of luck on his future endeavors. ありがとうございます。

Japanese Language & Digital Storytelling Awards Ceremony

On April 3, The Japanese Program honored its motivated language learners as well as the creative efforts of the students who produced Digital Storytelling videos. Students were assigned to create a short video regarding a short essay they recently wrote in Japanese. Many students used pictures, Japanese media, and actual voice recording of themselves speaking in Japanese. Awards were presented by Dr. Peter Shoemaker, Dean of A&S. The award winning Digital Storytelling videos were shown during Multicultural Day on April 25. Awardees received certificates and small Japanese snacks. In addition to Dean Shoemaker, we would also like to thank Dr. Giblin Gedacht of History Department, Professor Stone of LLC Global Center and Professor Ishikawa of Japanese Department for their help and support throughout Japan week 2019.



Q&A with 2019 JET Recipients, By Skye Osuka



Byanka Philippe

The JET Program is a competitive employment opportunity that allows young professionals to live and work in cities, towns, and villages throughout Japan. In 2019 two Seton Hall students were accepted into the program; Byanka Philippe (ALT) and Trevor West (CIR). We asked them a few questions about their selection experience for the JET program.

1) *Why you apply to JET?*

Byanka: I applied to the JET program because it has been my dream to live in Japan. I chose JET specifically because they have the best structure and support system of all such programs. I think JET is most likely to provide me with a robust experience.

Trevor: I applied for the JET Program because I want to experience both living and working in Japan. Also, I think the JET Program is one of the best way to do this, as well as being a great way to promote better US-Japan relations and learn more about the Japan.

2) *How has the Japanese program at SHU prepared you to pass the JET screening?*

Byanka: The Japanese program was extremely helpful in preparing me for the JET screening process in a few ways. Language study as well as cultural study that is built into our curriculum. It helped me to stand out not only on the application but also during the interview.

Trevor: The Japanese program helped prepare me in passing the JET screening in helping to improve and cultivate my Japanese language abilities and cultural knowledge. I applied and was accepted as a CIR and so there was a Japanese language proficiency test I took after the main interview section. I had a conversation with a Japanese teacher at the Chicago-Japan consulate, and she had me read an article in Japanese and then answer some questions about it. I can remember reading similar styled articles for some of the Japanese program's classes in the past, so I was not surprised and was able to quickly and effectively answer almost all of the questions correctly.

3.) *What are your expectation for JET including your future goals?*

Byanka: My expectations of JET is that it is going to be an amazing and rewarding experience but it will also be a grueling journey of self discovery. I believe that working with JET will fully prepare me for the world of teaching and I can't wait!

Trevor: I am excited for the JET and for the opportunity to live and work in Iki city, Nagasaki, Japan. I expect that the JET Program will overall be an excellent experience, but I am not naïve to the fact that I will likely undergo serious culture shock as well as homesickness during my trip. Keeping these aspects in mind, I plan to proactively engage with those I work with and others to make new friends and adapt more effectively.



Trevor West

A Message from the Editors

We hope you enjoyed the Spring 2019 edition of the Asian Voice. Any articles that were not included in this edition may be submitted for the Fall 2019 copy of the newsletter. Any Asia relevant events or news that students have coordinated with or participated in are welcome for submission, as articles are not solely limited to news or events held on the Seton Hall campus. This semester we would like to congratulate our recent graduates, and applaud their hard work and commitment to contributing to the field of Asian Studies. This semester has been a very active academic semester for all Asian Studies students, and we sincerely hope you enjoyed this brief portrayal of SHU's Asian Studies Community.

Join the Asian Culture Association

If you wish to join the Asian Culture Association, please contact Kana Emery at kana.emery@student.shu.edu
Dr. Dongdong Chen, advisor for the Asian Culture Association