Greetings from Ann Arbor! I feel deeply honored to serve as the director of the Center for Japanese Studies particularly in the year of our University’s bicentennial and CJS’s 70th anniversaries. I’m humbled to become the 19th person to join the distinguished group of scholars who have served as CJS director, and aspire to continue the tradition of excellence that has characterized our center for 70 glorious years. Having finished my first year as director, I have renewed appreciation for all the past directors who took on the enormous task of running CJS and passed the torch to me. In particular, I’m indebted to my immediate predecessor, Jonathan Zwicker, for successfully navigating CJS through various challenges and facilitating the leadership transition with all his sage advice. We are saddened to see him leave for UC Berkeley, but wish him all the best in continuing a productive career as a scholar and in running the Berkeley branch of U-M CJS with our other former director, John Lie.

We had another exciting year with all our regular programming — noon lectures, film series, Japan-related courses, and so on — as well as special events such as a rakugo event with Yanagiya Sankyo and Kyonosuke, a screening of the award winning film Happy Hour with the director and a lead actress, a joint conference with the Ford School of Public Policy on Japan’s Economic and Security Policy in the Trump Era, and many others. All these events became possible thanks to our faculty members and associates who volunteered their time to organize the events and host the guests, and especially to our excellent CJS staff who worked tirelessly to ensure success of all the events.

Another highlight of this academic year was to host as our Toyota Visiting Professor the award-winning filmmaker Soda Kazuhiro. With his unique style of documentary film making — kansatsu eiga (observational film) — , he has released a number of critically acclaimed films including Campaign, Theater, Oyster Factory, and Mental, which we screened at the Michigan Theater with a Q&A session and a reception with Soda. During his year in Ann Arbor, he also made a new documentary film about our beloved football stadium, The Big House. It will be released soon, and if early cuts are any indication, it will be a hugely successful film and will become a classic, not only on the U-M campus, but also in broader film circles.

I also have to report the sad news that Professor Yuzuru J. Takeshita (U-M Sociology PhD, 1962) passed away on October 17, 2016. A globally renowned scholar of public health generally and population planning in particular, Professor Takeshita had been, until his retirement in 1997, Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education in the U-M School of Public Health. In addition to his scholarly expertise, he spoke about his experience in the Japanese internment camps during World War II on many occasions, and his peace promotion efforts have been featured in various media outlets, from ABC Evening News and a documentary film “On Paper Wings,” to Reader’s Digest and the Ann Arbor News. His experiences are particularly relevant in the current political climate, and we will miss him and his indomitable spirit dearly. His family has established the Yuzuru J. Takeshita Memorial Fund to support CJS activities. We will announce this more formally once it is finalized.

Looking forward to the coming year, we have a series of exciting events lined up. Most immediately, we will have the third annual Ann Arbor Japan Week in June (see page 23), which features free screenings of Napping Princess and Princess Mononoke as well as a number of hands-on Japanese cultural activities that the whole family can enjoy. In Fall 2017, we have two special conferences scheduled, one on community revitalization in Detroit and Tohoku and the other on the history of US-Japan auto industry and U-M’s role in it. The latter event will come on the heels of the opening of the DIA Japan Gallery in early November to which many in the local Japanese community contributed (please see more on this on page 24). Details on all these events as well as our noon lecture series, film series, and other events, will be posted on our website, so please visit us online and also in person if you are in the neighborhood.

In that regard, we should let you know that we will be departing our School of Social Work Building offices in July to move a block north to the newly renovated Weiser Hall. Find us on the 4th floor with the other East Asia centers, where the new open-space floor should make you feel even more welcome. And please rest assured that our shoji and tatami will also find a new home with us!

Kiyoteru Tsutsui
Director
On a blustery January morning in 1948, twenty-five bleary-eyed students filed into a Haven Hall classroom for the first day of the new semester. There, they met a tall and affable professor of geography named Robert Hall, who, in turn, was flanked by a cadre of Michigan specialists in Japanese political theory, literature, economics, and art history. All assembled had served in some military capacity during the war with Japan. Over the next several months, faculty and students would sit for lectures by a rotating roster of specialists about Japanese politics, literature, fine arts, psychology, and, from an anthropological perspective, the challenges of the on-going US occupation of Japan. Two years later, the group would establish a field station in Okayama dedicated to Hall’s proposition that “For both faculty and student, the study of an area on the spot will do more than anything to demonstrate the essential unity, in actual life, of the knowledge encompassed by the different disciplines.”

Thus, the Center for Japanese Studies (CJS)—founded in June 1947 by Hall and four other Michigan faculty—welcomed its first class of students. Today, CJS houses more than sixty U-M faculty, has awarded over 500 MA degrees in Japanese Studies, and has minted over 400 PhD dissertations on Japan-related topics. Over its seventy year history, CJS has been tested by turbulent change in both the United States and Japan, and by its own faculty, staff, and students who demand and provide continuing insight into Japan and its relationship to the world.
Japanese Studies Before CJS

The first students who came from Japan to study at Michigan arrived in the 1870s and included Masakazu Toyama, who became president of Tokyo Imperial University and eventually Japan’s Minister of Education. Toyama first entered Ann Arbor High School and received a diploma there before entering the university in 1873 as a non-degree student. He left the university to return to Japan in 1876. His honorary Master of Arts degree from Michigan, awarded in 1886, was the first ever granted to a Japanese by an American university. The first English-language academic studies of the Japanese economy were carried out at U-M in the late 1880s by Eijirō Ono, a man who went on to become president of the Industrial Bank of Japan. Ono was an advocate for good relations between Japan and the United States and an active alumnus. In addition to being one of the founders of the Japan Society of New York in 1907 and an officer of the American Japan Society of Tokyo, he was one of the founders of the University of Michigan Alumni Association in Japan.

“Michigan University is the name that has been most endeared to me for the last twenty years...it was my good fortune to have personal acquaintance of pretty nearly all Japanese students in Ann Arbor, and I am proud to say that their records in Japan make them conspicuous when you compare them with the graduates of other American institutions.”
—Eijirō Ono
Beginnings

The War in the Pacific was the crucial event in the establishment of the Center for Japanese Studies. In 1942, the US Army established an Intensive Japanese Language School at Michigan. Many of the Japanese instructors were Japanese-Americans who were brought from internment camps in the western United States to Ann Arbor by Joseph K. Yamagiwa to teach Japanese.

In June of 1947, the Center for Japanese Studies was formally established in Haven Hall. Professor Robert B. Hall was appointed Director, presiding over a diversified executive committee from the Departments of Fine Arts, Economics, Anthropology; and the Oriental Civilizations Program. Initial funding for CJS was provided by the Carnegie Corporation and resulted in the acceptance of 25 students from a pool of over 150 applicants. All were men with military language training in Japanese, and most had spent some amount of time in Japan. An integral component of their training was to be research on-site in Japan. To this end, CJS embarked on the first of many ambitious projects as the newly formed executive committee began the arduous task of setting up a field station in war-ravaged Japan.

“One has, of course, to realize that the instructors had come to Ann Arbor to teach an enemy language, talked, written, and read by an enemy people with whom the instructors were racially connected. At first, some did not dare even to go to church, let alone a movie theater.”

—Joseph K. Yamagiwa
Conditions in Japan following World War II were chaotic at best. Outside of urban areas, irrespective of the damage caused by the war, there were few telephones or automobiles, and all manner of items required for daily living were in short supply. Day-to-day life was a struggle, not to mention trying to organize a research center in the heart of the Japanese countryside. Beginning with correspondence and ultimately Director Hall’s face-to-face meetings with General Douglas MacArthur in Tokyo, CJS was able to secure permission from the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers for studies in Okayama, Japan.

Having secured property, CJS began working in the Okayama Field Station on April 1, 1950. CJS staff and graduate students, the latter all Reserve Officers in the Army or Navy, were shepherded through a maze of red tape, vaccinated against smallpox, typhus, and cholera, and sent on the long voyage to Japan. For the graduate students, this was an opportunity to assist professors in advanced research, while at the same time, to complete their own Master’s essay and possibly choose a topic for a PhD. Ultimately, CJS would study three separate villages near Okayama: one whose economy was centered around fishing (Takashima), another concerned with agriculture (Niike), and a mountain village (Matsunagi).
The Future Emperor Visits CJS

Interest in the Okayama Field Station brought more notice to the Center for Japanese Studies and Ann Arbor. The Japanese Ambassador to the United States cut the ribbon to open the University of Michigan’s Asia Library, and in 1953, then nineteen-year-old Crown Prince Akihito came to Ann Arbor to tour CJS and meet its scholars.
Legal Cloud Hits Program Sellers

C_SLOT Obtains Copyright On Official Football Material

By IVAN BURKE

A FINAL TOLL of $3.5 million is being levied on football sellers by the Copyright Society of the U.S., which has the power to administer the Copyright Act. This is the first official statement to be issued by the society, which was organized in 1929. The society includes the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress, the Copyright Office of the State of New York, and the Copyright Office of the State of Illinois.

New Wing Created by Legislature

The new wing created by the legislature is being designed by the architects of the University of Michigan. The wing is being constructed at a cost of $3 million, and will be completed in 1937. The wing will be named after Dr. W. H. B. Browne, who was the president of the university from 1886 to 1929.

Akishito Surprises Gridders With Visit

Akishito, the heir apparent of the Emperor of Japan, visited the University of Michigan on Thursday afternoon. He was accompanied by his father, the Emperor, and his mother, the Empress. The visit was unexpected, and was a surprise to the gridders, who had not been informed of the visit.

Union Tramway

The Union Tramway is the newest line to be built in the city. It is being constructed by the Union Tramway Company, which is owned by the Union Pacific Railway.

Glee Club Tryouts

The glee club tryouts were held on Thursday afternoon. The tryouts were attended by a large number of students, who were auditioning for the various groups of the club.

World News

A recent report from the United States National Bureau of Economic Research states that the United States economy is in a state of depression. The report states that the depression is being caused by a number of factors, including the depression in the agricultural industry, the depression in the manufacturing industry, and the depression in the services industry.
Expansion

The end of Okayama was just the beginning of an ever-expanding number of projects for the Center for Japanese Studies. By the early 1950s, CJS was preparing Michigan undergraduates for admission to an advanced course of study. CJS also began to bring Japanese scholars to Ann Arbor.

The 1960s in Japan, as throughout much of the Western world, was a time of tremendous social upheaval. During the second year of this radical decade, CJS began outreach programs under the National Defense Education Act for Language and Area Centers.

The 1980s brought more and more world attention to Japan. The Japanese economy had become a juggernaut. Given the proximity to Detroit, it was natural that CJS provided US auto makers with information about the Japanese automobile industry that, at the time, no one else in the US had. The need for information led to a joint effort with Technova, a Japanese think-tank that in turn resulted in the “Joint US-Japan Automotive Study.” The study was financed by Toyota with substantial support from Ford, GM, and Chrysler, as well as the UAW. More than 1200 attendees attended the inaugural US-Japan Automotive Conference in 1981. The initial conferences and publications, which expanded throughout the 1980s, were among the earliest sources for information about some of the key overall principles considered to underlie Japanese automotive and economic success. The US-Japan Automotive Study resulted in a comprehensive report published in 1984, and it was followed by the formation of the International Auto Industry Forum, which was active from 1984-1990.
At the end of the 1980s, an eight-year lobbying effort resulted in a revolving endowed professorship that has enabled CJS to continue to provide interactions with the Japanese scholarly community at large. Annually since 1988, the Toyota Visiting Professorship has hosted scholars from Japan, Europe, and throughout the United States to teach at the University of Michigan. These specialists share their insights in disciplines ranging from business management and anthropology, to education, musicology, film, and political science. For students, it is a chance to take classes with a Japan expert to whom they would not otherwise have access. The public profits through public lectures, and the visiting scholars have the opportunity to share information with new colleagues and take advantage of some of the best Asia resources in the United States.

“My [Michigan] students stayed the course. . . their papers were very good. Teaching them had an influence upon me. It gave me the energy to begin my book, ‘The Aesthetics of the Traditional Japanese Film’ and it is to my students that I will dedicate it. They were the ones who held up the mirror for me and who made their own contributions to my work. I remain very grateful to them.”
—Donald Richie, Toyota Visiting Professor, fall 1993
CJS at 70

The Center for Japanese Studies is at once the oldest Japan center in the United States and the first area studies institution at the University of Michigan. Throughout its history, CJS has facilitated countless trans-Pacific collaborations in academia, business, government, and the arts. During the 2016-2017 academic year, CJS funded research by scholars from a wide variety of disciplines, and produced lectures, film screenings, a ten-episode podcast series, and a community festival known as “Ann Arbor Japan Week.” This summer, over 40 undergraduates will spend their summers in Japan participating in CJS-administered engaged learning programs and internships. Simultaneously, this year’s cohort of CJS MA students will pursue various research projects in Japan ahead of thesis reviews in the second year of their program. In Fall 2017, CJS will welcome a new cohort of 7 MA students.

In sum, at the outset of U-M’s third century and CJS’s 70th year, the commitment of our faculty, students, and staff to Robert Hall’s interdisciplinary and engaged vision for Japanese Studies stands stronger than ever.
We hope you’ve enjoyed learning about the first 70 years of CJS. See page 25 for information on how to contribute to the future of CJS!
The Publications Program of the Center for Japanese Studies has gone through some major changes following the retirement of long time Executive Editor Bruce Willoughby. We have begun a collaboration with University of Michigan Press, and the day to day business of the Program will be managed by faculty. I’m proud to be the first faculty member to step up to the task of following in the daunting footsteps of Bruce. If you are finishing up a manuscript, by all means submit it to us; instructions are on our website at ii.umich.edu/cjs/publications.

We have several new books to announce, starting with *Red Roofs and Other Stories*. This is a set of short stories by Japan’s master storyteller Jun’ichiro Tanizaki, newly translated by Anthony H. Chambers and Paul McCarthy. The four stories in this volume date from the first and second decades of Tanizaki’s long career, providing a new perspective on this early phase of the great novelist’s career. They reflect themes that appear throughout his work: exoticism, sexuality, sadomasochism, contrasts between traditional and modern societies, disparities between appearance and reality, the power of dreams, amorality, an interest in cinema, and a fascination with the techniques of storytelling. The stories — translated into English here for the first time — are: “The Strange Case of T omoda and Matsunaga” (“T omoda to Matsunaga no hanashi,” 1926), “A Night in Qinhuai” (“Shinwai no yo,” 1919), “The Magician” (“Majutsusushi,” 1917), and “Red Roofs” (“Akai yane,” 1925). (press.umich.edu/9325860/red_roofs_and_other_stories).

Our second book is Tanizaki’s *The Gourmet Club: A Sextet*, which was also translated by Anthony H. Chambers and Paul McCarthy. The decadent tales in this collection span 45 years in the extraordinary career of novelist Tanizaki. Made accessible in English by the expertise of translators Anthony H. Chambers and Paul McCarthy, the stories in *The Gourmet Club* vividly explore an array of human passions. In “The Children,” three mischievous friends play sadomasochistic games in a mysterious Western-style mansion. The sybaritic narrator of “The Secret” experiments with cross-dressing as he savors the delights of duplicity. “The Two Acolytes” evokes the conflicting attractions of spiritual fulfillment and worldly pleasure in medieval Kyoto. In the title story, the seductive tastes, aromas, and textures of outlandish Chinese dishes blend with those of the seductive hands that proffer them to blindfolded gourmets. In “Mr. Bluemound,” Tanizaki, who wrote for a film studio in the early 1920s, considers the relationship between a flesh-and-blood actress and her image fixed on celluloid, which one memorably degenerate admirer is obsessed with. And, finally, “Manganese Dioxide Dreams” offers a tantalizing insight into the author’s mind as he weaves together the musings of an old man very much like Tanizaki himself concerning Chinese and Japanese cuisine, a French murder movie, Chinese history, and the contents of a toilet bowl. These beautifully translated stories will intrigue and entertain readers who are new to Tanizaki, as well as those who have already explored the bizarre world of his imagination (press.umich.edu/9409189/gourmet_club).

Our final new book is *My Life as a Filmmaker* (*Watakushi no eiga jinsei* [1984]), by director Yamamoto Satsuo. This is the filmmaker’s posthumous autobiography, where he reflects on his career and legacy. It starts with his prewar experience as an assistant director under the master Naruse Mikio, and then describes his wide-ranging experiences as a filmmaker. These include his participation in the tumultuous Toho labor strike in the wake of WWII and his struggles as an independent filmmaker in the 1950s and 1960s. In the process, he established himself as one of the most prominent and socially engaged film artists in postwar Japan. In addition to detailed annotations of the autobiography, translator Chia-ning Chang offers a comprehensive introduction to the career and the significance of Yamamoto and his works in the context of Japanese film history. It contextualizes Yamamoto’s life and works in the historical and cultural zeitgeist of prewar, wartime, and postwar Japan before scrutinizing the unique qualities of his narrative voice and social conscience as a film artist (press.umich.edu/9306347/my_life_as_a_filmmaker).

Markus Nornes
Chair,
CJS Publications Advisory Committee
The colorful and rarely seen actor prints from the Edo and Meiji periods in the exhibition Japanese Prints of Kabuki Theater from the Collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Art (October 2016–January 2017) attracted many enthusiastic viewers, including numerous young adults and teenagers who saw interesting similarities to contemporary anime and manga in the close-up portraits of famous kabuki actors and the exciting stage scenes. Some lucky viewers were able to participate in the workshops, “An Intimate Look: Images of Kabuki Theaters and Actors in the Edo Period of Japan,” which explored in depth Edo period kabuki theater and celebrity culture. The participants had a chance to closely examine other actor prints from UMMA’s collection, and learned basic skills for deciphering texts and images from the exhibition’s co-curator Dr. Mariko Okada, Associate Professor of Japanese Literature at J. F. Oberlin University in Tokyo, and a former Toyota Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan.

To commemorate the University of Michigan’s bicentennial, UMMA is organizing a special exhibition. Victors for Art: Michigan’s Alumni Collectors presents over one hundred works of art loaned by over one hundred alumni and demonstrates the remarkable diversity and depth of their art collections. The first installment, Part I: Figuration, opened in the middle of February and goes until June 11, 2017; the second installment, Part II: Abstraction, opens July 1 and runs through October 29, 2017. Two works by the celebrated Japanese ceramic artists Kitaōji Rosanjin (1883–1959) and Kishimoto Ken’nin (b. 1934) will be featured in Part II: Abstraction.

In 2016 and 2017, UMMA acquired two major gifts of Japanese art. One is the collection of 64 kimono, haori, obi, and other accessories donated by Hiroko Miyake. Ms. Miyake, who resides in Tokyo, is a younger sister of Shizuko Iwata, whose collection of more than 200 articles of modern Japanese traditional attire in 2005 and 2013 was donated by her son and his wife, Howard and Patricia Yamaguchi (Patricia earned her PhD in ethnomusicology at the University of Michigan under the guidance of Professor William Malm). A selection of Shōwa era kimono, obi, and other garments from the outstanding Yamaguchi collection was presented in the exhibition Wrapped in Silk and Gold: A Family Legacy of Twentieth-Century Japanese Kimono in 2010. With the acquisition of the Miyake collection, UMMA now has about 300 articles of Japanese dress created in the twentieth century. In addition to elegant yuzen and chic shibori kimono, and gorgeous brocade obi from Nishijin, Kyoto, the Miyake Collection has several silk tsumugi from Ōshima. Ōshima tsumugi was valued by fashionable urban denizens of the Edo period for its understated beauty and incredible comfort, and is still one of the most prized textiles in contemporary Japan.

The other large gift was from the DNP Foundation for Cultural Promotion, Tokyo. The foundation, established by Japan’s largest printing company, Dai Nippon Printing, has one of the most extensive graphic design collections in Japan. I came to know the DNP Foundation while researching the East Asian typography design exhibition, Art of Communication and Expression (forthcoming in 2020). The foundation has donated posters to several design museums in Europe; UMMA is the first U.S. recipient of objects from the collection, which features works by three giants of the Shōwa-Heisei period graphic design: Ikko Tanaka (1930–2002), Shigeo Fukuda (1939–2009), and Kazumasa Nagai (b. 1929). To commemorate the acquisition, UMMA is organizing the exhibition Red Circle: Imaging Japan in Contemporary Posters (January 6–May 6, 2018), focusing on posters commissioned for international sports and cultural events and trade fairs. Through the brilliant use of traditional motifs in a colorful palette, these artists’ poster designs effectively communicate the dual image of Japan as a highly industrialized nation with two thousand years of history.

Natsu Oyobe Curator of Asian Art
News from the Asia Library

The Asia Library and the University of Michigan Press/Michigan Publishing joined the Center for Japanese Studies to celebrate the translation publication by Anthony H. Chambers and Paul McCarthy of Red Roofs and Other Stories, the short stories of Jun’ichiro Tanizaki. The U-M Asia Library holds a replica of the manuscript of Ashikari 廻刈 (1932), and the first editions of Tomoda to Matsunaga no hanashi 友田と松永の話 (1949) and Akai yane 赤い屋根 (1926) which are included in Red Roofs and Other Stories in addition to other examples of Tanizaki’s works.

The Asia Library sponsored the CJS Noon Lecture Japanese Imperial Maps: Collections of Gaibon in Japan and in the United States by Dr. Shigeru Kobayashi, Professor Emeritus of Osaka University. Michigan’s Clark Map library holds more than 10,000 Japanese imperial maps transferred from the Army Map Service after World War II and from the private collection of Dr. Robert Hall, the first CJS director. Dr. Kobayashi researched the maps and shared his insights about the collection and its preservation. Please visit the CJS events website to view a recording of the presentation.

Our collection has grown into a firm foundation for scholarship and education. It has added 4,375 monograph titles and 5,268 volumes and now numbers 338,628 monograph volumes. Since 2012, special attention has been made to build strong media collection and electronic resource. 179 media titles, including documentary films on the East Japan Great Earthquake disaster, feature films, TV dramas, performing arts, and animation films, were added to a collection that now represents 2,931 titles held in collaboration with the Askwish Media Library.

Digital resources allow our users to check materials instantly from wherever in the world they may be located. We have added electronic books, journals, and databases to our collection; Bijutsu shinpo 美術新報, Kobunso taika koshomoku 弘文荘待賈古書目, and Toyo Keizai akaibuzu 東洋経済アーカイブズ were added in Japan Knowledge Book, the sets of Nihon kokushi taisen 日本国史大系, Nihon zuibitsu taisei 日本随筆大成, Manyoshu kogi 万葉集古義, Asahi gurafu ni miru Showa no seso 朝日グラフに見る昭和の世相, Asahi gurafu ni miru Showa zenshi 朝日グラフに見る昭和前史, Toyota Takeshi chosakushu 豊田武著作集, as well as 102 E-books of English translation of Japanese modern literature.

After the University of Michigan spearheaded a long negotiation with Japanese providers, two major commercial online journals became available for North American university library subscription, Nikkei Asian Review and WebRonza. WebRonza can be reached seamlessly through the Asahi digital newspaper. This is in addition to the present subscription to the academic online journals; Nihongo bunpo 日本語文法 and Shomotsugaku 書物学.

Another emphasis was placed on acquiring electronic books to support and encourage students to learn Japanese language. Twenty-nine Japanese proficiency test study E-books and 219 Japanese linguistics and pedagogy E-books (for Japanese Pedagogy intensive courses) are available online through Mirlyn. To support a new language instruction method, TADOKU 多読 (reading of a variety of books), both print and electronic versions of 25 Tadoku readings titles are housed in the Tadoku Corner in the Asia Library Reading Room, where students can relax and enjoy reading. This effort will be continued as Japanese language education is the core intellectual foundation of understanding and research about Japan. Please visit the Learning Japanese Lib-guide (guides.lib.umich.edu/japanesestudies/learn-japanese) to browse our resource.

Acknowledgement: A grant from the Ford Motor Company, Japan, supports the subscription of Nikkei Telecom 21 database and the Nikkei Asian Review, and Toyo Keizai akaibuzu 東洋経済アーカイブズ. We thank them for their generous gift to strengthen Japanese business and economics materials.

Asia Library Travel Grants were awarded to four researchers to use our Japanese collections; Dr. Noriko Akimoto Sugimori, Assistant Professor of Japanese Language at Kalamazoo College; Ms. Izumi Koide, PhD candidate at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology Division of Cultural Resources Studies; and Ms. Toshie Marra, Librarian for the Japanese Collection of the C.V. Starr East Asia Library, University of California at Berkeley Library.

A Long-Term Asia Library Travel Grant was awarded to Dr. Alex Bates, Associate Professor of Japanese Literature at Dickinson College.

Digital Scholarship

The University of Michigan Library promotes digital scholarship by providing research data management infrastructure. U-M faculty can preserve a variety of data — texts, images, movies, sounds, etc. — in Deep Blue (deepblue.lib.umich.edu/) and make them available as open access resources. Introduction to Digital Humanities English Text mining workshop was designed for CJS students with ten participants, including a CJS affiliate from another university. We will continue offering workshops to assist students to be equipped with advanced digital scholarship literacy.

Keiko Yokota-Carter
Japanese Studies Librarian
Japanese Speech Contest

U-M undergraduate student Heya Ouyang received first prize at the 22nd Annual Michigan Japanese Language Speech Contest held on Saturday, March 25th, at the Wayne State University Oakland Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Heya, a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering, was enrolled in ASIANLAN 326 (3rd Year Japanese). She wrote about how her name represents her connection with Japan for a course project, which was revised into a 5-minute speech under the supervision of one of the course instructors, Yoshihiro Mochizuki.

This is the ninth first place win for U-M in the contest which is supported by the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit and Japan Business Society of Detroit.

Katsuya Hirano, Winter 2009 TVP has recently published:

- “ヘーゲルの亡霊と民衆史のアポリアー：安丸歴史学の認識論的前提の問題をめぐって” (Hegel’s Spector and Aporia of People’s History: On the Epistemological Premise of Yasumaru’s Historical Works) in 『安丸良夫特集－民衆思想史とはなにか』『現代思想』9月号 (Special Issue on Yoshihisa Yasumaru, Contemporary Thought September Issue) (Tokyo: Seidosha 青土社, August 2016).
- “アイヌ＝「滅びゆく民族」と生存への祈り- コロニアルな翻訳” (The Ainu = “Vanishing Ethnicity” and a Prayer for Survival) in 『みすず8月号』 Misuzu August Issue (Tokyo: Misuzu Shobo みすず書房, 2016)

Kazue Muta, Fall 2004 TVP and Osaka University sociology professor, was named Sociologist of the Month, in March 2017 by Current Sociology, the main journal of International Sociological Association. (facebook.com/CurrentSociology/photos/a.340442032705502.76907.337522709664101/1279058812177148/?type=3&theater)


Julia Adeney Thomas, 2009-10 TVP and Department of History, University of Notre Dame, was invited in September, 2016 to Seoul by the South Korea government to discuss issues of climate change and in November she published a roundtable in the Journal of Asian Studies on Amitav Ghosh’s Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable. In May, 2017 she returns to Ann Arbor to participate in the Luce-Funded Initiative on the emerging field of Asia and the Anthropocene, sponsored by the Association of Asian Studies.

Contest judges pictured with Mitsuhiro Wada, the Consul General of Japan in Detroit

Yoshihiro Mochizuki, Heya Ouyang, Ayaka Sogabe, Masae Yasuda (from the left)

All University Division contestants
From the Toyota Visiting Professor

David Leheny

Sadly, my most vivid memory of my year as a Toyota Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan came on October 17, 2015. The Center for Japanese Studies had kindly invited both of the visiting professors to join Japan’s Consul General in Detroit and his wife, as well as some other CJS members, at the annual Michigan-Michigan State game at the the Big House. As a longtime football fan, I was thrilled to be in a legendary stadium watching one of America’s most vaunted rivalries. As a new Wolverines fan, I was delighted to have the chance to watch coach Harbaugh’s team on the march (I had hoped) to the possibility of a national championship. As a lifelong New York Jets fan, however, I watched with fatalistic nervousness while most fans in the stadium were celebrating in its final seconds, concerned — rightly, as it turned out — that a botched punt or something of the like might snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. But as disappointed as I was at the outcome, I was also elated while walking out of the stadium, mostly at the sense of intense camaraderie among the fans who consoled one another while plotting their ways out of the post-game traffic snarl.

And that, in a weird way, encapsulated my year as a Toyota Visiting Professor. I focused on my book manuscript on emotional rhetoric in Japanese politics with a single-mindedness I had dreamed about for years. For the past several years at Princeton, I’ve been in administrative positions — undergraduate director, graduate director, acting department chair, etc. — that made it virtually impossible to concentrate on my own research. But research never works out perfectly, and one always has to be prepared for the unexplained data finding, that querulous source, that obstreperous text that challenges one’s views. And indeed, particularly as I bored into the astonishing (and I mean that) holdings of the University of Michigan’s library system, I found that I needed repeatedly to rethink my arguments, to address sources differently, and to approach my material with a fresh eye.

I could simply not have been in a better environment to do so. The Japanese studies faculty — whether its renowned and longtime leaders like Jennifer Robertson, Zwicker and Kiyo Tsutsui, or recently added superstars like Reggie Jackson, Allison Alexy, Erin Brightwell, and Chris Hill — were wonderful sounding boards, critics, and teachers. And in addition to the universal (and always friendly) excellence of the CJS’s staff — like Yuri Fukazawa, Lea Allerding, Peggy Rudberg, and Ann Takata — there was the adventurousness of Brad Hammond’s ideas, like the CJS podcast and the work with counterparts in places like Ishinomaki. And I am immensely grateful to the political science department for kindly hosting me for the year. I had expected it to be a great year for focusing on my work (which it was), but I had not anticipated how much I, having resided in and around Tokyo for many years and having researched Japan for most of my adult life, would learn about the place, and about how to think about it, while based about 6400 miles away.

My manuscript — currently under review, so fingers crossed — deals with a variety of case studies, and I focused my lecture at CJS on one involving an accidental collision between an American nuclear submarine and a Japanese fisheries training ship off the coast of Hawaii in 2001. Both governments wanted to resolve the incident as quickly as possible, but the deaths of nine Japanese (including four high school students) made it a visible and controversial issue that ultimately required nimble and concerted work on both sides, even if the work proved, as one might expect, to be of limited importance in resolving the grief of the victims’ families. But in addition to the wonderful suggestions I received from colleagues and students that day and later on my work, I benefited immensely from the University’s incredible collections on theater, as one of my other chapters focuses on the way in which emotion is deployed in the narrative structure of plays by one of Japan’s leading contemporary drama troupes. This could hardly be a narrower, more specialized topic, but I sense that no area of potential research is beyond the holdings of Michigan’s libraries, to which I turned repeatedly and gratefully.

In the winter semester, I had the opportunity to teach an undergraduate course on Japan and East Asian security, a topic I chose both because of my own background in the subject and my sense that there was a gap in existing course offerings. And, needless to say, Michigan’s students were a delight: smart, friendly, engaged, and active. This excellence, of course, required me to work harder, to adjust what I was teaching based on the astute and thoughtful interventions of the students.

But in that sense, the course reflected everything I loved about my year at Michigan: the sense of an intellectual adventure, always risky and with the possibility of a botched punt and a shocking setback, but also marked by the elation at finding a community of thinkers so supportive yet rigorous, so critical yet so friendly; so engaged in the process of trying to think about what we mean when we say Japan and why that should matter.

David Leheny
Princeton University
I am writing this essay as my belated thank-you letter to those whom I met during my year as a Toyota Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan in 2015-2016. During the year, they warmly welcomed my family and me to the CJS community and the broader U-M community. Thanks to their kind support, my year in Ann Arbor was intellectually as well as socially rewarding.

One of my main goals for the year was to focus on my book manuscript on Japanese futurism and coastal ecology in and near Fukushima before and after the meltdown. As an environmental anthropologist who works on Japan, I was delighted to have the invaluable opportunity as a Toyota Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan, where I met a number of the world’s best scholars, especially in the fields of Japan studies, anthropology, environmental studies, and science studies. During the year, in addition to CJS’s Noon Lecture Series, I was given the chance to participate in various workshops and lectures at the Department of Anthropology, the School of Natural Resources and Environment, and also the Science, Technology & Society Program. Taking part in discussions with their guest speakers, faculty members, and students was intellectually stimulating and fulfilling. In addition, I was also given three opportunities to present my own work based on my book manuscript at CJS’s Noon Lecture, the Anthropology Department’s Sociocultural Workshop, and the Speaker Series in the Science, Technology & Society Program. At each talk, I was given invaluable critical feedback, which has helped immensely to improve my arguments and ethnographic descriptions in my book manuscript. Among those who gave me the opportunities to present my work and provided me their insightful comments and questions, I would like to express my gratitude especially to Kiyo Tsutsui, Jennifer Robertson, Allison Alexy, Rebecca Hardin, Elizabeth Roberts, Stuart Kirsch, and Perrin Selcer.

One particularly inspiring feature of life at the University of Michigan was the University’s broad and scholarly commitment to public engagement. During my year as a Toyota Visiting Professor, I was invited to take part in two podcast episodes on campus and even a radio show. The podcasts were organized by CJS, and Professor Rebecca Hardin and her students at the School of Natural Resources and Environment had me as a guest on her radio program It’s Hot In Here. I had never been part of a podcast or been on the radio before, but I was very much inspired by their innovative strategies to engage not only with professors and students but also broader members of the community of Ann Arbor and beyond.

Looking back at my time as a Toyota Visiting Professor at CJS, it only becomes clear to me that I could not spend a better year. For allowing me to have the incredible experiences during the year, I would also like to thank CJS’s wonderful office members, especially Yuri Fukazawa, Peggy Rudburg, Lea Allerding, Brad Hammond, Nicole Howeson, and Ann Takata. Last but not least, I would also like to express my gratitude to CJS for providing me the opportunity to maintain my relationship with the program as a CJS affiliate. I am looking forward to our ongoing and future engagements.

Satsuki Takahashi
Hosei University

In Memoriam | Yuzuru Takeshita

It is with great sadness that we share the news that School of Public Health Professor Emeritus Yuzuru Takeshita passed away last fall on October 17 at the age of 90.

Professor Takeshita’s wife Joung Sun Takeshita made a gift to CJS in December to celebrate her late husband’s life and to create a legacy in his name. With this gift, an endowed fund named the Yuzuru J. Takeshita Memorial Fund was established. Professor Takeshita was a distinguished professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education and in the Department of Population Planning and International Health at the U-M School of Public Health as well as a long-time faculty associate of CJS. The fund will be used for a wide range of programs, activities, and student support. The Takeshita family encourages others to contribute to this fund at: leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#/alum/lsa-ii/cjs.
Faculty Updates

Erin Brightwell has been awarded the 2015 Ian Nish Prize for best article published in the journal Japan Forum. Her article ‘Refracted axis: Kitayama Jun’yu and writing a German Japan’ was published by Japan Forum in December 2015 (27:4). The Ian Nish Prize is awarded annually for the best article by an early career scholar in any discipline of Japanese Studies published in Japan Forum, the journal of the British Association for Japanese Studies.

Chris Hill led 14 Michigan undergraduates on a trip to Tokyo and Hiroshima in the 2016 spring semester as a “Global Course Connections” extension of his course on postwar Japan. In fall 2017 he presented his work on the history of the naturalist novel at conferences in Bonn, Germany, and Tromso, Norway. A portion of his research on the naturalist novel will be published in Verge: Studies in Global Asias. He served as discussant for a panel on music in Meiji-era literature at the annual conference of the Modern Language Association in Philadelphia and lectured on Kawabata Yasunari at the Grosse Pointe Public Library.

Markus Nornes has been busy bringing artists to campus, including director Hamaguchi Ryusuke for a screening of Happy Hour, and Toyota Visiting Professor Soda Kazuhiro. He arranged a Skype interview between director Adachi Masao and his students. And he helped curate the return visit of benshi Kataoka Ichiro, who performed Ozu’s Drag Net Girl for the CJS film series and Page of Madness for the Ann Arbor Film Festival (with a 35mm print from Eastman House). Nornes also gave lectures at the Institute of Contemporary Art in London, the University of Pennsylvania, Fudan University, and at the Ghent Film Festival. He served as a juror on Za Koenji Documentary Film Festival and the DMZ Documentary Film Festival. Finally, a fully revised edition of his co-authored Research Guide for Japanese Cinema was published in Japanese by Yumani. Recipient of a JSPS fellowship, he will spend the next year at Waseda University conducting research.

Jennifer Robertson has served as Director of Graduate Studies for CJS for 4 years, and will be stepping down at the end of the 2016-17 academic year. Her new book is in press, and will be available in August/September 2017: Robo sapiens japonicus: Robots, Gender, Family, and the Japanese Nation (ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520283206). Her articles include:

- She also recently published an article in The Conversation (an online news journal with articles by academics targeting a non-academic audience): “The gender-bending history of modern Japan’s ‘genderless’ males.”

Invited outside lectures/plenaries include:

- 2017 “Gendering Robots: Robo-Sexism and Retro-Gender Politics in Japan Today.” Invited lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, February 3.
- 2016 “Cyborg Able-ism: Critical Insights From the Not So ‘Uncanny Valley’ of Japan.” Invited plenary lecture (October 19), Robophilosophy 2016/ TRANSOR (Transdisciplinary Studies of Social Robotics) 2016, an international conference organized by the Department for Culture and Society, Section for Philosophy and History of Ideas, Aarhus University, Denmark, October 17-21.

Outreach/Media include

- 2016 Interview (in person) with Politiken (a leading Danish national newspaper) on Japanese robotics, October 19.
Advisory Boards/External Reviewer

1. Israel (December 16-23) I took part in 4 days of meetings as the Japan specialist on the Yad Hanadiv Advisory Committee for East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, Israel (2014-).

2. Denmark (February 1-4), I served as external reviewer for the dissertation defense of Christina Leeson (Univ. of Copenhagen) whose dissertation was on the uses of the robot Telenoid in Japan and Denmark.

3. Netherlands (February 5-9) I took part 2 days of meetings of the Leiden Asia Centre, International Advisory Council, Leiden University.

Kiyoteru Tsutsui has recently published:


Grants


Invited Lectures:


- “Kokubungaku kenkyu no kokusaiteki - tenkai - chosakuten, deta, Tosokan 国文学研究の国際的展開・著作権、データ、図書館” Discussion with Imanishi Yuichiro, the Director of the National Institute of Japanese Literature, Shomotsugaku 10, 書物学会 10, pp.32-40, 2017.


Recent presentations include:

- “Research university library as the center for scholarship – ‘publishing service’ at library.” Keynote speaker for the Symposium on “The present and future roles of academic publishers and libraries in Japan” on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Central Library of the Waseda University on December 12, 2016.

- “Introduction of Hathi Trust Research Center” at the 27th European Association of Japanese Library Resource Specialists at the University of Romania in Bucharest, Romania on September 17, 2016.

- “Present Condition of Digital Humanities and University Libraries in North America—The Case of the University of Michigan Library” at the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics on March 16, 2016, and at the Nagoya University Library and the Department of Literature of Nagoya University on March 22, 2016.

Keiko Yokota-Carter has recently published:

- “Chi no sozo kiban to shite no toshokan 知の創造基盤としての図書館 -the case of the University of Michigan Library” *Tosokan zasshi 図書館雑誌*, p. 436, July 2016.
Alumni Updates

Tom Burkman (MA, 1971) continues to teach here and there in retirement. In the summer of 2017 he will teach in Jinan University in Guangzhou, PRC.

Emily Canosa (CJS MA, 2011) presented a guest lecture at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities in Hikone, Japan, last May. You can read about it on their blog (jcmuofficialblog.com/2016/05/24/event-spotlight-emily-canosa-gives-guest-lecture-at-jcmu/).

Molly Des Jardin (MSI, 2011; ALC, PhD, 2012, Japanese Studies Librarian, University of Pennsylvania) was awarded an Andrew Mellon Price Lab Research Fellowship for AY16-17, at Penn, for a current digital research project on Taiyō magazine in the early 20th century. She also has a publication, entitled Inventing Saikaku: Collectors, Provenance, and the Social Creation of an Author in Book History vol. 20 (2017). She will also be teaching a workshop on Japanese text analysis at Emory University along with Mark Ravina and Hoyt Long in June of 2017.

Joshua Eisenman (CJS MA, 2006) has a new child, a daughter named Emi Akari Eisenman, and along with his wife, Mariko Takeuchi Eisenman, they are all doing great. Born on May 21 2016

   Emi 栄海
   Akari 明里
   Mariko 麻里子
   Takeuchi 竹内
   EISENMAN アイゼンマン

Jim Roche (MBA/CJS MA, 1989) is currently serving as treasurer and an executive committee board member of the Asian Art Council at the Art Institute of Chicago. He would welcome any CJS alumni inquiries about the Council’s programming, which includes lectures, gallery tours and travel opportunities throughout the year.

Arif Iqball (MBA/CJS MA, 1995) left his job as Global CFO and Corporate SVP for Benesse Holdings, a publicly-traded top-tier Japanese education company, to take up temporary residence in Kyoto, where he is spending a one-year sabbatical working on several personal projects, including a book of photographs of the elusive Geisha community. In January 2017, Arif spoke on innovation in Japanese companies, at the Japan Panel at the 26th Asia Business Conference at the Ross School of Business.

Hiro Saito (Sociology, PhD, 2009, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Singapore Management University) recently published The History Problem: The Politics of War Commemoration in East Asia (University of Hawaii Press, 2016). His book is now available for free download at the open-access platform Knowledge Unlatched.

Frank Shulman, career as a bibliographer (as well as an East Asian Studies librarian and historian) in some major respects began at the center. He was enrolled in the CJS MA degree program in Far Eastern Studies during the 1965-1967 academic years (MA in Spring 1968); spent the 1967-1968 academic year at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Tokyo; upon his return to Ann Arbor, took a course for graduate degree students in Japanese Studies that got him started in bibliographical work; concluded his studies for a second Master's degree — in Library Science — at Michigan in 1969; and pursued studies in a joint History and Library Science PhD program (with Roger Hackett, among others) through the mid-1970s. (still ABD). Between 1969 and 1975, he was affiliated with the center as both a librarian (in an unofficial capacity) and as a bibliographer. He was assigned an office in the basement of Lane Hall, and while pursuing his doctoral studies, he worked on a number of bibliographies, some of which were sponsored by CJS. The most notable ones were: Japan and Korea: An Annotated Bibliography of Doctoral Dissertations in Western Languages, 1877-1969. Foreword by Roger F. Hackett, Director, Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan. Chicago: American Library Association; London: Frank Cass, 1970. xix, 340p. The Allied Occupation of Japan, 1945-1952: An Annotated Bibliography of Western-Language Materials. Coauthored with Robert E. Ward and prepared with the assistance of Masashi Nishihara and Mary Tobin Espey. Foreword by John Richardson, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State, US Department of State. Compiled and edited for the Joint Committee on Japanese Studies of the Social Science Research Council-American Council of Learned Societies and the Center for Japanese Studies of the University of Michigan. Chicago: American Library Association, 1974. xx, 867p.
It was during these same years that he began an association with the Association for Asian Studies (AAS). Its secretariat was also located in the basement of Lane Hall — just around the corner from his own office — and in May 1969, he initiated a column of recently completed and in-progress doctoral dissertations on Asia in the “Newsletter of the Association for Asian Studies” that over the years evolved into the annual journal “Doctoral Dissertations on Asia” (1975-1996) that was published by the AAS. He also served during the early 1970s as the Assistant Editor of the “Bibliography of Asian Studies” of the AAS and then in the mid-1990s, while still working full-time at the University of Maryland at College Park Libraries (where, among other things, he served as Head of the East Asia Collection and as Curator of the libraries’ Gordon W. Prange Collection), he became an Associate Editor of the BAS. This is a position which he continues to hold to this day, while his wife Anna continues to serve as its full-time editor. (By contrast, he retired from his positions at the University of Maryland in 2001 in order to have as much time as possible for ongoing bibliographical work not only on Japan but also on several other countries of Asia, in particular Korea.)

Kendra Strand (ALC, PhD, 2015)
New job: Assistant Professor of Japanese Literature and Visual Culture in the Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures, Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of Iowa. Her forthcoming article is “Souvenirs for the Capital: A Travel Journal by Sōkyû.” *Asiatische Studien–Études Asiatiques*, 71.2 (June 2017).

3rd Annual
**Ann Arbor Japan Week**
by Emily Canosa

Ann Arbor Japan Week returns in summer 2017! The Center for Japanese Studies will present a week of Japan-related programming designed for families and children from June 18th through June 24th. This year’s

**Japan Week** will bring back some of our most successful events, including a taiko drumming performance, martial arts, sushi making, and a shibori dyeing workshop in the Ann Arbor District Library’s “Secret Lab” space. The Center for Japanese Studies will team up again with the Michigan Theater and Cinetopia International Film Festival (June 1-11) to offer special movie screenings.

**A Japanese Flower Arranging Workshop** with Ikebana International Detroit Chapter will be at Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, June 20.

**The Taiko performance by Godaiko Drummers** will be Wednesday, June 21.
As Masterpieces on Loan from the Detroit Institute
New Gallery of Japanese Art is Underway

In late January 2017, 52 modern European masterpieces from the collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) arrived back at the museum — direct from Tokyo! The works had been on international tour since September 2015, and for nine of those months, the exhibition was on view — thanks to the efforts and support of Fuji TV and Sankei Shimbun — at three major museums in Japan: the Toyota Municipal Museum of Art; Osaka City Museum of Fine Arts; and Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo. Response to the exhibition was incredible. Over half a million people visited the exhibition in Japan, underscoring the importance of DIA’s collection and the substantial role the museum plays in spreading art, knowledge and culture in the United States and around the world.

The works of art were chosen because of their quality and their ability to illustrate historical movements and thematic ideas. Selections included works by French Impressionists and Post Impressionists Paul Cézanne, Edgar Degas, Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Vincent van Gogh; German Expressionist paintings by Max Beckmann, Otto Dix and Emil Nolde; and works by early Modernist masters Juan Gris, Henri Matisse, Amedeo Modigliani and Pablo Picasso among other legendary artists. Of special note was the inclusion of Vincent van Gogh’s Self Portrait, 1887, and Henri Matisse’s The Window, 1916, both groundbreaking paintings which were the first by these artists to enter a public museum in the U.S. in 1922.

While DIA’s collection was touring Japan, the museum was planning for the reinstallation of the museum’s galleries of Japanese art. Paid community consultants joined DIA staff for three months to learn about the works of art and come up with concepts that could organize the gallery display. When they completed their work, the staff team took the ideas and developed the ones that could work for the gallery.

Unlike many installations of Japanese art in major American art museums, the new gallery will not just focus on painting styles, artistic techniques, and historical significance. It will explore the ways works of art could define a space as special and inspire both stillness and movement in those who encountered the art.
As Masterpieces on Loan from the Detroit Institute of Arts Return Home from Japan, Planning for

For example, a masterful lacquered sculpture of a Rakan, or disciple of the Buddha, will offer a sense of serenity and stilled mind that exemplifies Japanese Zen Buddhism. The sculpture was one of 500 figures made for a temple in Japan that burned down. The DIA’s is one of only seven in the United States.

Built in to the gallery will be a space similar to a Tokonoma — the spiritual center of many Japanese homes reserved for the most prized objects. Works of art such as paintings, contemporary ceramics and other fine objects in the collection will be displayed and replaced with the change of seasons.

The results of this important collaboration will be on view for everyone to experience when the new gallery for Japanese art opens at the DIA on November 4, 2017.

Additional information:

Total visitors at each venue
- Tokyo: 269,082
- Toyota: 86,824
- Osaka: 231,781

Supporting CJS – Give Online

The University of Michigan’s Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) is one of the nation’s foremost institutes for interdisciplinary research and training on Japan. Founded in 1947, CJS is the oldest interdisciplinary center in the United States devoted exclusively to Japanese Studies. CJS’s outstanding faculty of more than 55 area specialists come from varying humanities departments, social science departments, and professional schools. The Center offers an interdisciplinary MA program and joint MA/MBA and MA/JD programs. Together with the University of Michigan’s Center for Chinese Studies and the Center for Korean Studies, CJS is part of the East Asia National Resource Center supported by the Department of Education’s Title VI grant program, and serves the community through public events and outreach.

For years, CJS has been supplementing federal and university funding by gifts and endowments. Because federal appropriations to support area studies centers are always at risk, CJS must find ways to assure its financial security independent of federal support. Your gift will help the Center with this effort and ensure the high quality of its programs.

To give online, please visit: ii.umich.edu/cjs/alumnifriends/supportingcjs

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Shoun Genkei, “Rakan,” 1684/1695, lacquered wood with traces of gilding. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase with funds from Mr. and Mrs. Edgar B. Whitcomb, 44.75.
Margaret Takako Hicken
Research Assistant Professor, Institute for Social Research

Ikegai, and Healthy Aging: The Importance of Okinawan Lifestyle

The Japanese people are among the longest lived in the world, and Okinawans are among the longest lived Japanese, particularly remarkable given its low socioeconomic status relative to the rest of Japan. Not only are Okinawans high in longevity but, as some suggest, in a healthy longevity, making this cultural group of interest to those studying healthy aging. Research has focused particularly on the Okinawan diet and genetics. However, there is a small literature on a unique Okinawan sense of purpose in life. In Japanese, there is a term, ikegai, which roughly translates to “reason for living”. While there is some conflation of this term with more Western notions of role-based sense of purpose (e.g., “my ikigai is my children”), social scientists have attempted to clarify a Japanese concept that is broader and free from tethers to specific roles (e.g., “my ikigai is place in society”). It is hypothesized here that the ikigai in Okinawa may be more of the latter than the former. Furthermore, it may be that this role-free sense of purpose is an important determinant of the Okinawan healthy longevity. The Okinawan ikigai may also be a component of a broader “Okinawan soul” which is tethered to Okinawan history and culture. It may be, then, that Okinawan ikigai may vary for Okinawans living in different cultural contexts, different countries or even different parts of Japan and Okinawa. This variation may provide important information about the aspects of Okinawan culture that are important for healthy aging. To examine the notion of ikigai and Okinawan lifestyle and culture in Okinawans within different geosociopolitical contexts, I plan to conduct in-depth interviews with Okinawan adults in different parts of the Okinawan diaspora.

Shinobu Kitayama
Professor of Psychology

Neuroticism and Emotion Regulation in Japan

Neuroticism is typically seen as unhealthy and maladaptive. This view is based on associations documented between neuroticism and (1) increased biological health risk as assessed by pro-inflammatory cytokines such as interleukin-6 (IL-6) and C-reactive protein (CRP) and (2) reduced volume of prefrontal regions of the brain (which typically serve “executive functions” including planning, control, and effort). Importantly, however, this work draws exclusively on Western, largely European American populations. In fact, our recent (unpublished) studies testing Japanese in Japan have shown that these associations may in fact be reversed in Japan. In one study, we find that among 382 Japanese adults in their midlife (30-60 years of age, with the mean age of 48), neuroticism is reliably associated with reduced biological health risk as assessed by IL-6, CRP, and a few other biomarkers. In another study, we find that among 138 Japanese adults, neuroticism is reliably associated with greater volume of a prefrontal region of the brain (the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex) that is linked to emotion regulation and behavioral control. Our current hypothesis is that one major component of neuroticism is anxiety, which entails high vigilance to threats in the environment, especially various social threats. For example, individuals with high neuroticism may take note of discontent of their colleagues at work more quickly and more perceptively than those with lower neuroticism. The increased vigilance toward social threats could be literally threatening and could give rise, for example, to paranoia and possibly depression. It, however, could also be adaptive, as long as the individuals are psychologically adept at addressing the potential threats and preempting them. We have therefore hypothesized (1) that neuroticism is unhealthy and maladaptive for those individuals who are not sufficiently prepared to adjust their behaviors to various contingencies in the environment, whereas (2) it is healthy and adaptive for those who are highly prepared to adjust their behaviors to such contingencies. Previous cross-cultural evidence shows that as compared to North Americans, Japanese are higher in their propensity to adjust their behaviors to various social expectations and norms. We may therefore expect, contrary to the Western evidence showing a reliable link of neuroticism to maladaptive psychological and health effects, among Japanese, that neuroticism should be reliably linked to adaptive psychological and health effects.

Natsu Oyobe
Curator of Asian Art, University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA)

Art of Communication and Expression in Contemporary East Asia

East Asia has a long and rich tradition of using written language as an important means of artistic expressions. Contemporary graphic designers continue to exploit expressive possibilities of the written languages and produce an extraordinary array of works that speak to the world we live in. This exhibition, which is scheduled to open in the winter of 2020, will focus on works of artists from three major East Asian cultures, China, Korea, and Japan. It will highlight the origins and the structures of the three distinctive writing systems (Chinese characters, Korean Hangul, and Japanese kana), which derived from their specific historical and cultural conditions, and will examine how the contemporary designers try to communicate with viewers. The grant will support the research for the Japan section of the exhibition. In Japan, Dr. Oyobe will meet with participating artists including Daijirō Ōhara, Dainippon Type Organization (a graphic design collaborative), and Oguma Chikako. While in Japan, Dr. Oyobe will also meet with contemporary artist Mari Katayama to explore an exhibition of the artist’s work at UMMA, currently proposed for the winter of 2018.
Several years ago, Alex Hayashi, then a doctoral oboe student at U-M, approached me about playing one of his dissertation concerts as a performance of Japanese oboe/piano duos. This project was immediately interesting to me because despite all of my musical studies, and particularly my work in game audio studying JRPGs, I had never encountered any Japanese classical music. After our simpatico collaboration, I have continued to research this unique repertoire, so that Dr. Hayashi and I could keep working together to promote it. This generous CJS grant will allow creation of a 4K HD recording of wonderful and little known Japanese composed oboe/piano duos written in the last three decades. Some of these works are published as handwritten facsimiles of the original scores and I will create new, modern printed editions to encourage further study and performances. These works represent an exciting variety of musical styles that should be accessible to a wide audience. They are further unique for containing a number of works composed by women, whose music is underrepresented throughout classical music. We also plan to present the program live as a recital in various locations.

Research grant recipient Matthew Thompson performs with oboist, and recent U-M alum, Dr. Alex Hayashi.
Shoun Genkei, “Rakan,” 1684/1695, lacquered wood with traces of gilding. Detroit Institute of Arts, Founders Society Purchase with funds from Mr. and Mrs. Edgar B. Whitcomb, 44.75.

Read more about the Japanese Art Collections of the Detroit Institute of Arts on page 24.