A Zen Life in Nature: Musô Soseki in His Gardens
by Keir Davidson.

Kamrekî, furnished with the characters for “circulate” or “return” and “calendar,” marks the beginning of a new cycle. (Yes, I know that the term is traditionally only for men. Please allow me the metaphor.) I suspect that the Center that exists at the beginning of this new cycle is quite different from that which many of you knew years ago.

I often heard faculty and former students wax nostalgically about the years when CJS was housed in Lane Hall. Many CJS faculty had offices there, and I have heard that it was an exciting place to be a member of the community of scholars at the University studying Japan.

More than half of our current faculty came to Michigan after CJS moved out of Lane Hall in 1997. Faculty members are now spread across the different schools and departments of the university. I am the only faculty member with an office in the same building as CJS. More often than not, our communication is done by email.

I know that many people mourn the change. I agree that it’s not the same as it used to be. But here are two reasons why I think that our current situation is a sign of strength and reflects the increased importance of Japanese Studies.

First, CJS faculty are now well-integrated into their respective departments. Japan is not an exotic or unusual subject of study. We’re mainstream, not isolated, and information on Japan is both more readily available and appreciated. In my case, at least, that shift means that I rely not only on my CJS colleagues for help (as I’ve written in this column before), but also on my colleagues in my department who actually are interested (or can fake interest well) in my Japan-related work.

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True, some of these benefits seem to have come at the expense of daily interaction and “face time,” and I hope that we can find ways to improve that. But the CJS of 2007 remains young and vibrant in ways that might have been unexpected. With apologies to Bob Dylan, CJS, now in its Kamrekî year, “was so much older than it’s younger than that now.”

Mark D. West, Director
Farewell to CJS

Sadafumi Kawato
2006-07 TVP, Professor of Political Science, Tohoku University

I was CJS’s Toyota Visiting Professor (TVP) from September 2006 to April 2007. This was not the first time for me to stay in the United States for an extended period of time. In past years, I was on the east coast (MIT) and on the west coast (Stanford University). Therefore, I thought Ann Arbor, Michigan was the best place for me to stay for the third time in the United States, and it proved to be true.

It has been a great privilege to be a TVP because I was able to focus on my research with the relatively light teaching obligation. In addition, I was free from all administrative work and other obligations at my home institution. CJS has provided me with a comfortable working environment with friendly and excellent faculty and staff. I was happy that I was able to nurture some new ideas for my research during my time here. I also enjoyed my almost daily chats with Yuri, Sandy, Jane, and Ann. Another pleasant memory for me was when CJS’s Director, Mark West, took me to the Michigan Stadium where the Wolverines easily beat Northwestern, although we had to leave after the halftime because it was a freezing October day.

In retrospect, eight months was not a long time at all. I taught two mini-courses, attended numerous professional lectures/seminars, made a few trips to the both coasts, gave several presentations in and outside of the University of Michigan, and enjoyed a vacation in the LA area with my elder children who visited during their spring recess.

Although it seems to have been a mild winter all over the world, I had never before experienced three consecutive weeks of below freezing temperatures like we had in February. I noted the lowest temperature was -7°F but it felt like -20°F. This was something I did not expect in Ann Arbor and it was the most impressive thing that I will remember. I joked that cold temperatures like this only could be experienced in Japan by putting your fingers in the freezer.

I am going back to Japan, but this is definitely not the last time that I will visit CJS and the University of Michigan. I will see you all hopefully in the near future.

Sadafumi Kawato
2006-07 TVP, Professor of Political Science, Tohoku University

Several years ago, documentary filmmaker Hara Kazuo and I reunited over beers at a favorite spot in Tokyo. This was shortly after Fahrenheit 9/11 had its Japanese release and the conversation inevitably turned to the topic of Michael Moore. The film had impressed both of us. Of course, as a kind of retrospective of the early Bush years, Hara’s experience was quite different than mine; his relationship to 9/11, the wars, the election and everything else in the film, was that of an appalled and bemused spectator, while I basically felt daunted and confused. Soon, however, we were talking about Moore’s approach to history, particularly the way he pivots the past around his own wonderful, profoundly personal point of view. It was in this context that Hara mentioned that he had heard, through the grapevine, that Moore admired his work.

This made perfect sense. Hara entered the documentary film scene through still photography and made a name for himself with a string of astounding films. His debut effort, Sonoataru CP, features a man with cerebral palsy who shares the life challenges posed by his disease—everything from sex and marriage to dealing with the attitudes of healthy people to simply speaking in the first place. The film had no Japanese subtitles, so the audience was forced to read the English subtitles for the first time. The film found itself attracted to the work of Hara Kazuo. Both exemplify an approach to documentary based on the affective presence of the filmmaker. They insert themselves into the historical world to see what happens, record how their interaction with the people before the camera reveals something that would otherwise never have happened or would have remained hidden. In this sense, both filmmakers forged a personal documentary firmly anchored in the subjectivity of the filmmaker. They insert themselves into the historical world to see what happens, record how their interaction with the people before the camera reveals something that would otherwise never have happened or would have remained hidden. In this sense, both filmmakers forged a personal documentary firmly anchored in the subjectivity of the filmmaker. They insert themselves into the historical world to see what happens, record how their interaction with the people before the camera reveals something that would otherwise never have happened or would have remained hidden. In this sense, both filmmakers forged a personal documentary firmly anchored in the subjectivity of the filmmaker. They insert themselves into the historical world to see what happens, record how their interaction with the people before the camera reveals something that would otherwise never have happened or would have remained hidden. In this sense, both filmmakers forged a personal documentary firmly anchored in the subjectivity of the filmmaker. They insert themselves into the historical world to see what happens, record how their interaction with the people before the camera reveals something that would otherwise never have happened or would have remained hidden. In this sense, both filmmakers forged a personal documentary firmly anchored in the subjectivity of the filmmaker. They insert themselves into the historical world to see what happens, record how their interaction with the people before the camera reveals something that would otherwise never have happened or would have remained hidden. In this sense, both filmmakers forged a personal documentar...
discovery of Hara’s cinema: It began with Moore describing his 
he was, too. The two directors met on 
hours between finishing sound editing and 
longer than planned. In the end, he 
filmmaking process that inevitably takes 
the midst of editing 
Kazuo. Moore accepted our invitation in 
Center. They were playing a film that 
the film just four blocks from the White 

ilar thing, but certainly using this docu-
— I just really wanted to get out of the 
this interest in naked armies or anything 
a bizarre title for a film. Not that I had 
inspired me and very early on did that, 

MOORE: I actually disagree with 
you in terms of the anger I worry that 
my anger is actually disruptive to myself. 
To me personally. You said that the anger 
sustains me, but I think it’s really my 

MOORE: It might be a useful thing to do. To keep your soul from 
collapsing from the anger and the despair 
that exists… as a filmmaker, I set out to 
make these films, first and foremost, to 
express myself artistically and I always 
put the art before the politics. Because if 
you put politics first you end up, at least 
in film, with a pretty crappy movie that 

Hara used the question to think about his 
process clearly involved comparing what 
they thought about the other with what 
they thought about themselves. They felt 
like kindred spirits because of their incli-
nation to interfere with the reality before 
the camera, and also for their formative 
experience in the turbulent 1960s and 
1970s. However, this latter historical 
similarity was more likely a point of 
departure, as the situations in Japan and 
America were different in some funda-
mental ways. 

we could count him to meet Ilara 
Kazuo. Moore accepted our invitation in 
the midst of editing Sicko, a stage in the 
filmmaking process that inevitably takes 
longer than planned. In the end, he 
squeezed in a visit to Ann Arbor in the 
hours between finishing sound editing and 
hopping on a plane to the Cannes Film 
Festival. We were all grateful, and I sense 
he was, too. The two directors met on 
stage at the Michigan Theater, and the 
discussion was absolutely fascinating. 
It began with Moore describing his 
discovery of Ilara’s cinema. 
I was cove-shy of the way through 
past production for Roger and Me, editing 
the film just four blocks from the White 
House and five blocks from the Kennedy 
Center. They were playing a film that 
night called Emperor’s Naked Army 
Marches On. I just thought that was such 
a bizarre title for a film. Not that I had 
this interest in naked armies or anything — I just really wanted to get out of the 
editing room. So I walked over there and 
sat down and I just put my feet on two 
hours. First, as a lover of movies, but it 
was like I had this sort of affinity to Japan. 
I don’t know if I’d say he was doing a sim-
ilar thing, but certainly using this docu-
méntary art form in a way that was very 
different from Discovery Channel-type 

Roshi. For any filmmaker, on top of 
money, you need a certain energy that 
sustains you through the arduous process 
of making a film. I’ve read in various 
interviews and books by you that it is the 
anger you have that is often what sus-
tains you. But I believe you need some-
thing underneath that. In my case, my 
sustenance is my own question mark 
about myself. There is the unknown with-
in me. That would lead me somewhere 
that I don’t know and I’m perhaps afraid 
of that. But I do have a very strong desire 
to find out what that is, and when I make a 
documentary film I am not doing it for 
social justice, or organizing the masses, 
expounding some theme, or anything 
except finding out that question mark 
within me. Therefore, although I am 
shooting my subjects with my camera, 
I am also carrying the camera toward 
the inside of myself, and going further 
and deeper within. Do you do anything 
like that?

MOORE: It might be a useful thing to do. To keep your soul from 
collapsing from the anger and the despair 
that exists… as a filmmaker, I set out to 
make these films, first and foremost, to 
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in film, with a pretty crappy movie that 

Hara Kazuo explains his work at the Michigan Theater

Michael Moore and Mark Vloski at the on-stage conversation.

Hara Kazuo explains his work at the Michigan Theater

Hara Kazuo and Katsumi Suzuki (producer) introduce “Me, the Emperor’s Naked Army Marches On.”

Photo credits: Martin Howell, U-M Photo Services.

Hara Kazuo explains his work at the Michigan Theater

This came towards the very end of the evening, when the directors left the stage and the spectators’ bodies were kidnapped in a screening of Emperor’s Naked Army Marches On. I was not the only person who felt like the conversation was only just beginning.

Aho Mark Normes
Professor
U-M Department of Screen Arts and Cultures
U-M Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

Photo credits: Martin Howell, U-M Photo Services.
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2007-08 Toyota Visiting Professor

Mark McLelland, with a reception on September 12. Professor McLelland is a leading sociologist and cultural historian of Japan specializing in the history of sexuality, gender theory, and new media. His recent publications have focused on the postwar history of Japanese sexual minority cultures and the development of the internet in Japan, especially the use of the Internet and other new media by minority communities in Japan and throughout Asia. These include the books Male Homosexuality in Modern Japan (2000); Queer Japan from the Pacific War to the Internet Age (2005) and the edited collections Japanese Cybercultures (2003) and Queer Voices from Japan (2007). He is a founding member of the AsiaPacificQueer (http://app.umi.edu.au) research collective which organized the “Genders, Sexualities & Rights: 1st International Conference of Asian Queer Studies” in Bangkok in 2005 and co-editing AsiaPacifiQueer: Rethinking Gender and Sexuality in the Asia-Pacific to be released by University of Illinois Press in 2008. While at Michigan, he will be working on his new book project. Sex in the City: Reconstructing Gender and Sexuality in Tokyo, 1945-1955 and teaching a course on postwar transformations in gender and sexuality in Japan.

2007-08 Noon Lecture Series

CJS’s 2007-08 Noon Lecture Series kicks off on September 13 with a lecture given by artist, Kunie Sugita. This year’s series features lectures by five of CJS’s members and associates. Jonathan Zwicker (ALC, October 18), Jennifer Robertson (Anthropology, November 1), Maki Fukusaka (ALC, November 15), Akiko Takanaka (History of Art, January 24), and Shinobu Kitayama (Psychology, February 14). For a listing of the fall speakers, see the Calendar on page 14, or visit: http://www.cjs.umich.edu/jets/calendar.html.

2008 Mochitsuki

CJS’s 4th annual Mochitsuki is scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 5 from 1-4pm in the School of Social Work Building. Activities will include: mochi-making and tasting, origami, games, kakizome (New Year’s calligraphy), koinobori (flaglike paper kites), and live music. The event is free and open to the public.

Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl

The 2008 Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl will mark its fifteenth year when it is held on March 15. Started by the Japanese Teachers Association of Michigan (JTAM), the event was initially held at K-12 schools. Due to increased participation, the event was moved to Michigan State University in 2001 and later moved to CJS and The University of Michigan in 2005. For more information about this event, contact Jane Ozanich (ozanich@umich.edu).

Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl

CJS directed and hosted the 14th Annual Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl (MJQB) for the Japanese Teachers Association of Michigan (JTAM) at the Japanese Teachers Association of Michigan (JTAM) at the Michigan State University in 2001 and later moved to CJS and The University of Michigan in 2005. For more information about this event, contact Jane Ozanich (ozanich@umich.edu).

Beate Sirota Gordon Speaks to an Overflow Crowd

Beate Sirota Gordon, the self-acknowledged living cultural artifact, spoke to a standing room only crowd in CJS’s Winter 2007 Noon Lecture Series on March 15. Her lively and entertaining talk, entitled, “Drafting the Women’s Rights Clause for the New Japanese Constitution,” highlighted her journey from a young girl living in Japan with her parents to the present. CJS thanks the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit for their generous support of this lecture.

4th Annual Ann Arbor Book Festival

Since the inception of the Ann Arbor Book Festival, CJS has led the coordination of the International Institute’s presence at the event, the International Pavilion. This year’s pavilion featured music, dancing, story-telling, crafts; and of course, books from the various world regions represented by the Centers in U-M’s International Institute. For more information about the Ann Arbor Book Festival, visit: http://aabookfestival.org/

CJS Celebrates the Tanbote Festival with the International Institute Staff

As part of the U-M International Institute’s (III) ongoing center-related activities, CJS’s staff organized a mini-lesson on the Tanbote Festival for the III staff members. The guests ate somen, drank mugicha, folded origami ornaments, and hung their wishes on the special “bamboo” tree.

Past CJS Events

Past CJS Events

Out of the Ordinary: New Identities in Recent Japanese Film

Following the lead of the University of Michigan Museum of Art’s (UMMA) special exhibition, “Out of the Ordinary: Extraordinary Japanese Contemporary Photography,” (June 16-September 16, 2007) (http://www.umma.umich.edu/), CJS organized its summer 2007 film series around films that feature characters and storylines that are off the beaten track. The four films, all screened in the month of August, were: Noriko no shokutaku (Shinotsuka) directed by Tetsuya Nagashima, Nobody Knows (Dare mo shiranai) directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda, Noreki no Dinner Table (Noreki no shokutaku) directed by Shin Sono, and All Under the Moon (Tsuki ni uwachi ni deteru) directed by Yôichi Sai.

Future CJS Events

Future CJS Events

Editions

Editions

Editions

Editions

Editions
Shoko Emerti (Asian Languages & Cultures) recently gave three presentations. In March 2007, she presented “Online Project for Novice and Intermediate Levels: Developing Students’ Spontaneous Discourse through Listening Practice” at the 2007 Association of Teachers of Japanese Seminar with Yumi Oda (U-M ALC lecturer). In May, Ms. Emerti presented “Introducing an Intermediate to Advance Level Japanese Textbook Based on the National Standards: How to Integrate the 5Cs and 3Ps in Our Teaching” at the Princeton Preconference Forum with Satoru Ishikawa (Emeritus, University of Iowa). Finally, in August, she presented “Muketsu o arawasu ‘Tameni’ bun no dousei nituite - ‘Yooni’ bun no ezenyaite to no hitaka” at the International Conference on Japanese Language Education which was held at Columbia University.

Aileen Gatten (Adjunct Researcher, CJS) is a contributor to the Dictionary of Sources of Classical Japan (Paris: Collège de France, 2006), edited by Joan Piggott. Ivo Smits, Inke Van Put, Michel Viellard-Baron, and Charlotte von Verschuer, The Dictionary, the result of collaboration among scholars in Europe, the U.S. and Japan, is intended to guide students, scholars, and other interested readers to sources dating from, or with relevance to, Nara- and Heian period Japan (710-1192). The Dictionary contains some twelve hundred entries that describe the contents and characteristics of each source and give bibliographical information on editions and available translations.


Gayl Ness (Professor Emeritus, Sociology) took part in two workshops in Kobe in the summer of 2007. The workshops were part of the Asian Urban Center Information of Kobe (AUCK) with which he has worked since its formation in 1989. AUCK does research on Asian urban issues and trains urban administrators in forms of integrated urban planning (www.auckland.org). In addition to the workshops, he visited the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) in Kyoto. He is also currently working as a guest editor on a book of papers to be published on land subsidies in some major Asian cities, including Tokyo, Bangkok, Seoul, Taipei, and Manila. Finally, he is working with Nihon University’s Population Research Institute on a project on “Aging in Asia.”

Abé Markus Nornes (Asian Languages & Cultures, Screen Arts & Cultures) co-organized a KinoMa Club conference in conjunction with Frankfurt’s Nippon Connection Film Festival. His book on Ogawa Productions, Forest of Pressure, was released this spring. A death bed promise to the director in 1991, the publication was celebrated at a Shamen Drum reception in connection to the big "X-Treme Private Documentary" event in May (see article on page 35).

Mayumi Oka (Asian Languages & Cultures) was elected to a three-year term as a member of the Association of Teachers of Japanese (AJT) Board. In addition, Ms. Oka presented a paper (with Shinok Emerti), Yoshihide Banai, and Junko Komoto from U-M’s ALC at the 19th CALT conference at the University of Iowa in March. The paper, “The Development of a Post-Intermediate Japanese Textbook for English Natives Based on the National Standards,” discusses the U-M Japanese language program’s textbook development project which will be published by the Karoshobi Publishing Company in the spring of 2009.

Jennifer Robertson (Anthropology) was elected President of the Society for East Asian Anthropology (American Anthropological Association, AAA) for the term of 2009-11. Professor Robertson also received the National Endowment for the Humanities/Advanced Research in the Social Sciences on Japan Fellowship for her work on humanoid robots, cybernetics, kinship and the new Japanese family (May-December 2008). Earlier this year, Professor Robertson was a visiting professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tokyo (January-March, 2007). Then, from April through August, she was a Fulbright Research Scholar and Visiting Professor at Tel Aviv University in Israel. Since January 2007, Professor Robertson has given six lectures. The most notable of them being “Robo squaters stationary: Humanoid Robots and the Posthuman Family” at the 2007 Horizon Core Lecture in Sociology and Anthropology at Tel Aviv University on June 7. In addition to her lectures, Professor Robertson has had two articles reprinted and several other publications to date in 2007. Two of her upcoming publications are “Blood – In All of Its Senses – as a Cultural Resource,” (in Shinji Yamashita and Jerry Edels, eds., Cultural Resources, Asian Anthropologies series, Oxford: Berghahn Press) and “Relentless Presentism: Postgender as Prehistory” in Japanese Culture, (in Ayelet Zohar, ed., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

Tom Blackwood (CJS MA, 2005) (Sociology, PhD, 2005) became an Associate Professor of Asian Pacific Studies in the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies, Hitotsubashi University in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture (April 2007).

Sumi Cho (Anthropology) was awarded the Werner-Gren dissertation fieldwork grant, the NSF doctoral dissertation improvement grant, and CJS’s Mellon Fellowship for her dissertation fieldwork project, “Multicultural, Okinawan Popular Culture, and the Politics of Ethnicity in Okinawa.” In August, she began conducting her one-year ethnographic research on how practices of Okinawan and media culture affect the ways in which disporic (Okinawans and ethnic Japanese interact with each other in the Taisho district, “Okinawa’s Kinowan Tom.”

Ge Dong (CJS MA, 2002) moved to Connecticut in August 2006 where she is employed by an insurance company.

Jennie Imada (Psychology, PhD) was awarded the Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship for the 2007-08 academic year.

Glenn Hoekter (International Business, PhD, 2001) was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Business. He was also named a Resident Associate at the University’s Center for Advanced Study, where he is leading the Center’s initiative on Science and Technology in the Pacific Century. In addition, he was named a Faculty Fellow at the University’s Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership. Finally, Professor Hoekter received additional appointments in the College of Law and the Institute for Genomic Biology.

Stephen S. Large (CJS MA, 1965) (History, PhD, 1970) retired in September 2006 as Reader in Modern Japanese History at the University of Cambridge, where he had taught since 1989 after earlier appointments at the University of Iowa (1969-73) and the University of Adelaide in South Australia (1974-87). He may be contacted in Cambridge at: stephen.large@ntlworld.com.

Brook Latham (CJS MA and Molly Desjardins (ALC, PhD) are attending the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language in Yokohama.

William Lando (History, PhD, 2004) has taken on the position of Associate Director of the Asian Studies Center at Michigan State University.

Suma Pundit (CJS MA) has been accepted into the PhD program in Architecture.

Bhishma Sain (Sociology, PhD) was awarded the Mellon/AALS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for the 2007-08 academic year.

Delborah Solomon (History, PhD) was awarded the 2007 Rackham International Research Award. These awards are granted to University of Michigan doctoral students who are conducting degree related research outside North America. Her research will focus on historical research and participant interviews about the 1929-30 Kwangju Student Protests against Japanese students.

Yuhin Yang Sezerba (CJS MA, 2005) recently took a position at the Detroit branch of Sojka Corporation of America.

So Jung Um (History, PhD) was awarded the Barbour Scholarship for the 2007-08 academic year.
CJS’s 2007-08 Faculty Research Grants Announced

The Center for Japanese Studies is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2007-08 Faculty Research Grants. This grant program supports individual or group research projects that investigate various aspects of Japan. This year’s recipients and their projects are as follows:

Edward Chang, Associate Professor of Psychology, was awarded funding for his project, “Self-Enhancement and Self-Criticism in Japan and US: Exploiting Mechanisms and Effects of Cognitive Bias.” In their past projects, he and his team developed a framework to study cognitive bias for positive and negative events and found cultural differences in studies of Japanese and European Americans. Two follow-up studies clearly showed that European Americans are more inclined to engage in the optimistic bias, whereas Japanese are more inclined to engage in the pessimistic bias for negative events. The grant will help a set of studies that will expand on these past findings by seeking to clarify the specific mechanisms that may account for past cultural differences in cognitive bias between Japanese and European Americans and to explore the potential consequences of perceiving cognitive bias in culturally different others from the standpoint of Japanese and European Americans.

Maki Fukunaka, Assistant Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures, was awarded a grant for her project, “Between Seeing and Knowing: Shifting Standards of Accuracy and the Concept of Shōhun in Japan, 1830-1872.” This project explores the process of negotiating the standard for “accuracy” and the role of pictorial representation within the formulation of hakusatsu-guiku epistemology, focusing on the Shōhun shi, a private group of scholars that pursued hakusatsu-guiku in overseas domains in nineteenth-century Japan. The grant will support her research trips to investigate the similarities and differences of three copies of “Shōrei Hōtsu” produced by members of the Shōhun shi.

Ken Itô, Associate Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures, received funding for proofreading and indexing for his book, “Active Families in the Meiji Melodramatic Novel,” which has been accepted for publication by Stanford University Press. The book examines the enormously popular serialized fiction of the turn of the last century using concepts of melodrama, and it explores how this fiction presented alternative images of the Japanese family at a historical moment when the state pushed forward the ie as the “traditional” and essential form of family for all Japanese.

Masahito Jimbo, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, was awarded a grant for his project, “Perception of Japanese Men and Women on Cancer Screening: Development of Self-Administered Survey.” Dr. Jimbo and his team’s previous study explored, through in-depth individual interviews, the experiences, knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and values of expatriate Japanese men and women toward cancer screening. The grant will help them develop, pre-test, and distribute a quantifiable self-administered survey to a sample of Japanese adults, incorporating the findings from the above study.

Shinsho Kitayama, Professor of Psychology, was awarded funding for his project, “The Voluntary Settlement Hypothesis: An Exploration in Hokkaido.” In previous studies, he and his team proposed that there is a form of individualism in Hokkaido, which lends unique support to the hypothesis that voluntary settlement in frontiers fosters independent mentalities as culture of mainland Japan is highly interdependent and collectivistic. This grant will help (1) test whether Hokkaido residents would be higher than residents of mainland Japan in three distinct facets of independence that are considered as the psychological cornerstone of the American individualism, (2) examine the idea that individualism is different between Hokkaido and the U.S. with regard to social relations, and (3) examine, in detail, personal stories of independence and interdependence in Hokkaido, mainland Japan, and the U.S.

James Robinson, Assistant Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures, received a grant for his project, “Inside Asian Images: What the Contents of Statues Can Tell Us About Religious Practices.” Professor Robinson has been conducting a research on small wooden religious images dating from the 16th Dynasty 1644-1192 to the present from the Human province. The grant will help his research trip to Japan to work with Japanese scholars, study the collections and archival materials only available in Japan, and carry out fieldwork among Chinese immigrants in Japan to assess the extent to which the Humane statues have made there way to Japan.

Kazuhiko Saito, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, was awarded funding for his project, “Study of the State-of-the-Art of Eco-Friendly Product Design and Recycling Technologies in Japan.” This project investigates the state-of-the-art of eco-friendly product design and reuse and recycling technologies in Japanese manufacturers as recycling infrastructures in Japan have advanced dramatically due to the recent introduction of a recycling law on electrical appliances and expected introduction of a recycling law on automobiles. The grant will help his research trip to Japan to visit product development divisions and recycling facilities of automobile, electrical appliance, personal computer, and cellular phone manufacturers and to interview experts in Japan.

Jonathan Zwecker, Assistant Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures, was awarded a grant for his book project, “Stage and Spectacle in an Age of Print: Drama and Cultural Consumption in Nineteenth-Century Edo.” This book examines the theater culture of nineteenth-century Japan from the perspective of the history of the book and grows out of Professor Zwecker’s interest in Japanese print culture which he explored in his recent book, “Practices of the Sentimental Imagination: Melodrama, the Novel, and the Social Imaginary in Nineteenth-Century Japan.” The funding will help his research trips to Japan.

2007-2008 Student Funding Awards

Summer Fellowships

- Erika Alpert, Anthropology, PhD
- Sumi Cho, Anthropology, PhD
- Danielle Corcoran, Anthropology, PhD
- Brian Dowdle, ALC, PhD
- Sherry Funches, History, PhD
- Isao Kamata, Economics, PhD
- Andrea Landis, ALC, PhD
- Kerry Lowell, History, PhD
- Deborah Solomon, History, PhD
- Junko Terayama, Anthropology, PhD
- So Jung Um, History, PhD

2007-08 Academic Year

- International Institute Language Fellowship
  - Gabrielle Koch, ALC, Anthropology, PhD
  - Brooke Lathram, CJS, MA
  - Deborah Solomon, History, PhD
  - UM Alumni Club of Japan Fellowship
  - Kenichi Ariga, Political Science, PhD
  - Mari Suzuki, CJS, MA
  - Briefing Fellowship
  - Isao Kamata, Economics, PhD
  - Aaron Nelson, CJS, MA-MBA

- CJS Endowment Fellowship
  - Lindsay Akashi, CJS, MA
  - Kenichi Ariga, Political Science, PhD
  - Molly Des Jardins, ALC, PhD
  - Isao Kamata, Economics, PhD
  - Christopher Schad, CJS, MA
  - Leah Zoller, CJS, MA

- Mellon Fellowship
  - Sumi Cho, Anthropology, PhD

- Competitive Fellowships
  - Sumi Cho, Anthropology, PhD; Wexner-Grant Foundation Fulbright Grant and National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant
  - Molly Des Jardins, ALC, PhD; College Women’s Association of Japan Fellowship
  - Tashe Imada, Psychology, PhD; Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship
  - Jason Witzany, Anthropology, PhD; Fulbright Fellowship
  - Yukihiro Oho, Economics, PhD; Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship
  - So Jung Um, History, PhD; Barbour Scholarship
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

U-M Japanese Language Students Take First Place Honors for the Third Consecutive Year

On March 31, U-M students took top honors for the third year in a row at the Japanese Language Speech Contest, sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit, the Japan Business Society of Detroit, and the Japan American Society of Greater Detroit & Windsor. Alan Bunney was awarded the first place honor for his speech titled, “What is the True Measurement of Intelligence?” Jennifer Eusebio’s speech, “Working towards Mutual Understanding,” was awarded the third prize.

Japanese Language Program Conducts Its First Study Trip to Nagoya

Nine students were selected from the upper-level Japanese language courses in U-M’s Department of Asian Languages and Cultures to participate in study trip that was partially funded by CJS. The “Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum” (ISAC) Nagoya study trip ran from May 6 through May 13, 2007. Organized by ALC lecturer, Junko Kondo, this study trip gave students the opportunity to study and learn about Japanese business culture and practices in Japanese. During the weeklong stay, students visited companies, business-related museums, and cultural facilities located in Nagoya. The site visited included Toyota, Mitsubishi Electric, Yomuri Shimbun, Manzukaya, the Osu shopping district, the Toyota Technological Museum, the Robot Museum in Nagoya, and the Airhi Prefectural Ceramic Museum. On each site visit, students attended a guided tour and mini-lecture, and participated in Q&A discussions with onsite employees. The cultural insights that students gained from the trip broadened their understanding of Japanese-speaking people and Japanese business practices.

Asia Library Travel Grants

Grants up to $700 are available to help defray the cost of travel, lodging, meals, and photo duplication for Japan scholars at other institutions who wish to utilize the collection at the University of Michigan Asia Library from July 1, 2007 until June 30, 2008. More information about the library is available at http://www.lib.umich.edu/asia, or by contacting the Library Assistant at 734.764.0406. Interested scholars should submit a letter of application, a brief statement to the Center describing their research and their need to use the collection (not to exceed 250 words), a list of sources that they would like to access (applicants must check availability of these sources in the Library’s online catalog before submitting applications), a current curriculum vita, a budget, and proposed travel dates. The Center accepts applications until May 31, 2008 by email at umcjs@umich.edu or by mail at: Asia Library Travel Grants Center for Japanese Studies Suite 3640, 1080 S. University The University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106

JapanKits

As part of its outreach efforts to K-12 educators, CJS has developed a series of kits containing realia and other teaching materials which are made available on a short-term loan basis. In the summer of 2006, the original JapanKits were reorganized and have seen an increase in usage this past year. With a view to even more frequent borrowing by schools and community educators, the three large boxes of books, images, music and materials are being revised once more. With this revision, each collection of items will be grouped into one or two related lesson topics. Busy teachers will be able to quickly grasp some of the ways to use the materials to explore a topic, rather than to spend time mining the contents of the box for inspiration. Thanks to a generous donation by a CJS alumnus, additional video resources will join the JapanKits, as well. In short, the newest edition of the JapanKits should be of interest to local schools that offer Japanese language, and to schools where World History and Geography is being offered. For more information on the JapanKits, email umcjs@umich.edu.

Feature Article from a Former CJS Visitor

In the summer of 1985, I was one of twelve college professors chosen for a National Endowment for the Humanities seminar in Japanese theater music. The director was William Malm. Although most of our seminar meetings were in the Burton Memorial Tower, where Professor Malm had two floors replete with Japanese musical instruments and research materials, the group made several visits to the Center for Japanese Studies. The program of events and activities at CJS was impressive then and even more so now. My research in the Asia Library at U-M that summer, and a year at Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music on a Fulbright grant in 1989-90, resulted in New Talents: A Bio-Bibliography in Music (Greenwood Press, 2001), a study of that composer’s scores, recordings, and film music. Rev. Dr. James Siddons Chesterbrook United Methodist Church McLean, Virginia www.JamesSiddons.com

Feature Article from a Former CJS Visitor

CJS would like to feature short articles written by our former students and visitors which focus on their experiences at CJS-U-M. Please contact us with your stories at umcjs@umich.edu.

AlC Japanese language lecturer, Junko Kondo, with a student at the Robot Museum in Nagoya.
November

1 Noon Lecture*: Itoho saijō, Japan: Humanoid Robots and the Posthuman Family. Jennifer Robertson, Professor, Department of Anthropology, The University of Michigan; Editor, Colonials

2 CJS Free Film**: Three Resurrected Drumards (Kautsiki Jappan), Directed by Nagisa Oshima (1968)

8 Noon Lecture: The Emotional Expressions of the Japanese.

David Matsuzomo, Professor, Psychology Department, San Francisco State University

9 CJS Free Film**: Title T.B.A.

15 Noon Lecture*: Photographic Immortality: General Nogi, Shirakô, and Their Inêt; Maki Fukusaka, Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages & Cultures, The University of Michigan

16 CJS Free Film**: Swallowtail Butterfly, Directed by Shunji Iwai (1996)

December

January 2008

5 CJS Special Event - Mochitsuki: 1-4pm, International Institute Gallery, School of Social Work Building, 1800 South University, Ann Arbor. 

17 Noon Lecture*: Moneylenders, Merchants & Samurai; Bethinking the Social Impact of Cash in Medieval Japan.

Ethan Segal, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Michigan State University

24 Noon Lecture*: Politics of Enshrinement: War Dead and War Criminals at the Yasukuni Shrine.

Alsaka Takenaka, Assistant Professor/Fellow-Doctoral Student, Department of the History of Art, The University of Michigan

31 Noon Lecture*: Kissing Is a Symbol of Democracy!;

US Popular Culture and the Creation of a Culture of Romance

Edward Seidensticker

In Memoriam

Edward Seidensticker

On the day that this newsletter was to go to print, CJS learned of the passing of Edward Seidensticker in Tokyo. Professor Seidensticker was a long-time friend to the Center and a professor at U-M from 1966-77. According to Seidensticker to print, CJS learned of the passing of Edward Seidensticker in the winter 2008 Densho. CJS plans to include a more fitting tribute to Edward Seidensticker in the winter 2008 Densho.

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