

## SETON HALL'S ASIAN VOICE

SPRING 2014

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### *Congratulations to the Class of 2014!*

We would all like to officially congratulate our graduate class of 2014! This year the Asian Studies program is graduating fourteen students, all who have been diligently working hard and are now moving on to their future projects. (Read on to find out about some great

announcements). The commencement ceremony was held on May 17th and was attended by our faculty and graduating students.

Best of luck to our Asian Studies Master Graduate Class of 2014!



### *Department of Asian Studies Class of 2014 Graduates*

Si Chen	Wenwen Gou	Abigail Nanquil	Shryll L Whittaker
Fengyu Cheng	Thomas Hart	Michael Paultz	Yuan Yuan
Michael Dutko	Kyle A Hilton	Qingyang Qin	Xiaolu Zhang
Samantha Graham	Teruo Katsukawa	Tianfu Sun	Licheng Zhu
Siqi Hu	Yaoyi Lu	Xu Xu	

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



It has been an exciting spring for the Asian Studies Program in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures. April 7-11, 2014 was celebrated as Japan Week on the Seton Hall campus. Academic highlights of this annual event included the 17th Annual Graduate Student/School Teacher Symposium on Japanese Studies and the 2014 Digital Storytelling Awards. Among the cultural activities were a workshop on Japanese *tsukemo-*

*no* (pickled things) and calligraphy. Also in April, was the Eighth Annual Chinese Language and Cultural Project Contest, co-hosted along with the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation. Student teams from high schools all over New Jersey made presentations on the topic "A comparative perspective on a life event in Chinese and American cultures." The winning team received a \$1,000 prize. Congratulations to the 2014 graduates and enjoy your wonderful summer!

### *A Message from the Director of Graduate Studies*



To comply with the requirements of university assessment, the Asian Studies program developed a strategy to evaluate the performance of our students in the two tracks. For the Teaching Track, an e-portfolio is expected of each of those taking the course Supervised Teaching of Chinese, which may include: resume, teaching philosophy, and lesson plans. Stu-

dents in the Area Studies Track, presented their research projects at the 17th Annual Symposium on Japanese Studies and were judged by faculty with a rubric. The data retrieved in these two fashions will be examined, and a report will be submitted to the University Assessment Center in early June. The Asian Studies Graduate Program was started in 1961. The Teaching Track was added in Fall 2006. There are over 30 students in the Asian Studies Graduate Program.

### *Remarks from the Director of the Asian Studies Program*



Despite an unusual bitter winter here in New Jersey, spring has finally returned. The leaves have come back to the trees and the flowering plants are blossoming. This semester, the focus of the Asian Studies Program was program assessment. In keeping with the annual tradition, the Asian studies program proudly sponsored cul-

tural events such as China Night and Japan Week. Through such events, students and other members of the Seton Hall community have an opportunity to take part in cultural experiences as well as intellectual dialogues on current global events. In an effort to continue such cultural involvement year round, I encourage students to take advantage of the many wonderful study abroad programs Seton Hall offers.

## Traditional Art of Chinese Paper Cutting

Mr. Li Wang, a practitioner of the traditional art of Chinese paper cutting, was invited to deliver speech and hold a workshop to the Chinese studies community at Seton Hall on April 24. Mr. Li earned his Master's degree from Minzu University in China and acquired the skill from his grandmother during his childhood and has been practicing since then.

Because of his excellence, Mr. Li has been invited to give talks and demonstrations around the United States. Currently, he is a Chinese language teacher for the Old Bridge school district. We were fortunate enough to have two students who participated in the event share their experience and reflection on the workshop for the Asian Voice.

I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the demonstration and the workshop, and am proud to say that I learned more than just fanciful ways to cut paper; the history and culture behind every artist and artwork is powerful and inspirational.

-Jamie E. Law Class of 2014



The main cutting tools are simple: paper and scissors or an engraving knife, but clever and deft craftspeople are remarkably good at cutting in the theme of daily life. When you look at items made in this method carefully, you will be amazed by the true to life expressions of the figure's sentiment and appearance, or portrayal of natural plants and animals' diverse gestures. In the end, it was a great honor to have Li Laoshi come in to demonstrate and teach us about how to do Chinese paper cutting. I actually did this once way back when I was in Chinese school in 1st grade. On the other hand, some have never learned it before. It is a great skill to learn and most of all, a lot of time to put in. You need to practice it a lot to be as good as Li Laoshi.

-Edward Chu Class of 2017

## Trip to Chinatown

On January 31, 2014, the Chinese program organized one field trip to Chinatown in Manhattan, NY. Eight students learning Chinese, accompanied by Chinese graduate students, visited one of the most iconic Chinatowns in the nation under the lively atmosphere of the Lunar New Year festivities. Students were invited to experience and immerse themselves in local Chinese-American and Asian-American celebrations of the most significant event in the lunar calendar.

Activities included sampling a variety of traditional Chinese dishes, watching the firecracker shows, as well as getting the chance to see the infamous dragon and lion dances. The trip was part of the Chinese program's larger effort to offer authentic social contexts to the students in order to facilitate their knowledge of Chinese language and culture. Through this event, all participants enjoyed the Chinese traditional new year dishes.



## China Night 2014



On February 11th, the Asian Studies Program, in partnership with Chinese Student and Scholars Association, Net Impact and China-US Relations Study Association, held the annual China Night in celebration of China's Lunar New Year. Students of the Chinese Program, as well as Chinese students at Seton Hall and members of greater community participated in this event. The show began with a dragon dance performed by volunteers from the Livingston Chinese School. Chinese students performed dancing, singing and poetry recitation while American students

of the Chinese program participated in the event and used the language skills that they had acquired throughout their study of the Chinese language. Raffle prizes were awarded to audience members throughout the course of the event.

The event saw a great turnout as it does every year. All participants had a great time witnessing student performances as well as the diverse aspects of Chinese culture. Both on the stage and behind the scenes, China Night 2014 was another example of Seton Hall's commitment to global involvement.

## Chinese Speech Contest

On April 24<sup>th</sup> the Chinese Program organized the annual Chinese Speech contest in the Nursing Amphitheatre. Over 60 students, teachers and guests gathered to take part in the event. Five awards were given to students at the introductory level, two at the intermediate level and one to an advanced level student. The contest also awarded a special prize to the students of CHIN 3214 course for their excellent group performance at the event. Throughout the event, students of Chinese were able to demonstrate their

language skills and put them into practice in cultural context.

Through participating in the contests, students fostered a sense of confidence in their foreign language abilities while using said skills to interact with their peers.

Special thanks to Dr. Dongdong Chen, Dr. Edwin Leung, Prof. Eva Chen-Lee, Professor Xiaoqin Li and Prof. Cynthia Fellows for their efforts in organizing the event.

*Photos provided by Florian Jenkins*



## Graduate Student Foreign Language Education Practicum at K-12 Schools



During 2014 spring semester, students in Asia 7118, Supervised Teaching of Chinese and Japanese, had the opportunity of visiting various schools from the elementary to high school level throughout New Jersey in February and March: The Yinghua International School (immersion school), Carl Sandburg Middle School, Watchung Hills Regional High School and Holmdel High School. After the four visitations, students were required to find a school and teach under the teachers' supervision.

The opportunity was a great learning experience for the students with wishes to become future language instructors. Zhaoyang Dou, a graduate student in the Chinese Teaching Track said, "It is a great opportunity for me to visit the schools, I had great time there applying teaching methods, picking up further skills from the supervisors, and more importantly I had the chance to expand my professional network in the field of Foreign Language Instruction."

## Message from an Asian Studies Alumni



Many of us made the decision to join Seton Hall University's Asian Studies program because we believe that the reemergence of Asia to the global stage represents a paradigmatic change to the "rules of the game" in global politics, business, culture, international relations, and other spheres. Joining an Asian Studies program, we hope, is the mechanism by which we become active and valuable participants in this process. And it's true, as my experience proves. An explosion of interest in Asia has led to a steady and growing demand by the government, businesses, and universities for leaders with experience in the field: experts—yes, experts!—like us, who are passionate about the subject, understand the diversity of Asian

cultures, speak the languages, and have direct experience with the changes taking place in the Asian continent. This has been a special challenge for developing countries like Colombia who lack sufficient human capital and institutional experience to deal with new global actors. Nearly two years have passed since I returned to my home country of Colombia after graduation. In this short span of time, I have been witness to a historic transformation of the country's institutions, perspective, and even its identity; these dynamics have been propelled principally by the country's growing relationship with the Asian continent. I am fortunate to have been an active participant in my country's growing relationship with Asia. Today, I am a professor for three universities teaching Contemporary China, China's Economic Transformation, and Asian Politics, Economics, and Culture among other subjects. More recently, I have been asked to found and lead a

Center for China-Colombia Studies, the first of its kind in the country; we expect the Center to become a powerful voice in the country's decision-making vis-à-vis China. All of this has been in no small part thanks to the Asian Studies program to which we belong, a program that imparts us not only with knowledge to become effective Asia observers but also the tools to do research and speak with conviction on Asian subjects; the spaces in which to develop long-term relationships with present and future leaders; and the passion to continue building on the changes that are taking place in Asia and around the world. Studying Asian culture, language, and politics has never been more important or rewarding of an academic field. We are on the right path to becoming the most effective agents of change in the shrinking global society of the modern age.

David Castrillon, M.A. '12

## Understanding Japanese Baseball

Professor Gary Andrasko opened up Japan Week 2014 with a presentation on Japanese Baseball. The presentation traced the game's origins, from its introduction to Japan in 1872 by a visiting American teacher in Tokyo, up to the Japanese Baseball Culture of today and its defining characteristics. Professor Andrasko's presentation highlighted the cultural influence on the game's growth and popularity in Japan. Professor Andrasko was then followed by Dr. Shigeru Osuka, who delivered a presentation of the life and achievements of Kenichi Zenimura (1900-1968). Regarded as the "Father of Japanese Baseball," Zenimura's story spans his bring-

ing such baseball legends as Babe Ruth to Japan, to the tragic story of his time in an American Internment Camp during of WWII. Zenimura played at the Mills Institute (currently Mid-Pacific Institute) in Honolulu, Hawaii where Dr. Osuka taught Japanese and served as Head of the Foreign Language Department from 1989 to 1996. The event was then concluded with a student presentation by Jessica Matthews, Hallie O'Halloran, and Antoinette Gissubel. During their visit to Japan under the SHU Study Abroad Program, the students got the opportunity to go to a profession baseball game

between the Tokyo Giants and the Yakuruto Swallows. While the structure and nature of the game were akin to those of the American variant, the students concluded, the Japanese baseball experience seemed to be driven by the fans. "The [fan] participation element was something completely different from the American game," said Jessica Matthews on the contrast between the game's Stateside and Japanese manifestations. All students agreed that the experience was one of the most memorable of the trip for offering a candid look into contemporary Japanese culture.

## Japan Week 2014 Calligraphy Workshop



On Tuesday April 8th, Professor Hiroko Ishikawa held a workshop on Japanese Calligraphy. Modern Japanese uses a mixture of Chinese characters, *Kanji* and syllabary alphabets called *kana* developed exclusively in Japan, but the tradition of Chinese character calligraphy still occupies a very deep significance in Japanese culture. Students were given a brief history of calligraphy in Japan and a demonstration of the process behind the art, including a brief video on the importance of calligraphy in contemporary Japanese culture.

Professor Ishikawa then took to the brush for a hands-on calligraphy lesson for the audience. After they were taught the seasonally-appropriate character for 'cherry blossom,' *sakura*, the students were given their own brush and ink sets to practice. Professor Ishikawa helped the students to improve their hand while they practiced writing the characters. Finally, students were encouraged to take home their best work as a memento of the experience.

## Japanese Language and Digital Storytelling Awards Ceremony 2014

Every spring semester during Japan Week, the Japanese Program recognizes the achievements of outstanding students in the program to encourage students to learn foreign languages and fostering their roles as global citizens. Students who received awards fell into one of the three categories: digital storytelling awards, language study awards, and Japanese National Honor Society awards. Digital Storytelling incorporates technology into the language classroom. Students work with Windows Movie Maker to create a "story" in Japanese utilizing visuals, music, and Japanese composition skills on topics from "My Best Friend" to "Issues of Global Energy." Professors of the Japanese program also nominated outstanding students to receive the language study award based on their academic

achievement as well as enthusiasm for their study of Japanese language and culture. Other students were nominated as Inductees into the Japanese National Honor Society-College Chapter, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the study of the Japanese language. The society is administered by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ) and requires a GPA of 3.5 over 5 semester of Japanese language classes and an overall GPA of 3.0 at time of nomination.

Dean Christopher Kaiser and Assistant Dean Sheila Riley presented all nominees with their respective awards and commended the students for their diligent work. Congratulations to all the winners!



## Japan Week 2014—Activity Highlights

Despite the threat of looming storm clouds, the 15th Annual Kite Contest was held on Monday, April 8th. Students and other members of the Seton Hall Community came out to compete for the 3 ranks in the Highest Flying category, Largest, Smallest, and Most Artistic. Participants spent their time in the days and weeks before the contest hand-making their own kites using various materials. Winners were awarded commemorative trophies and prizes such as plush character figures provided by the Asian Studies Association. The event afforded students the rare opportunity to create the kites themselves and admire their own craftsmanship.



On Tuesday, April 9th, Professor Fumiko Bacon introduced members of the Seton Hall community to *tsukemono*, or the art of Japanese pickling. Tracing the roots of pickled foods back to its original function as a preservative in Feudal Era Japan down to the current age, Professor Bacon offered the audience a variety of contemporary pickled Japanese dishes along with white rice. The dishes were presented in buffet style, allowing students to choose from the abundant selection of samples. Many were pleasantly surprised and wondered where they could purchase the various *tsukemono* in the local area.

## A Farewell to Two Japanese Program Faculty Members



Professor Bacon (pictured left) is always enthusiastic about sharing her knowledge and experiences on Japanese studies, as demonstrated by her interesting and hands-on workshops about Japanese food during Japan Weeks. During her workshop on *tsukemono*, Dr. Shigeru Osuka and Professor Dr. Mary Balkun, English Department and Japan Week Committee Member, presented Professor Bacon with a plaque commemorating all of her hard work over the years.

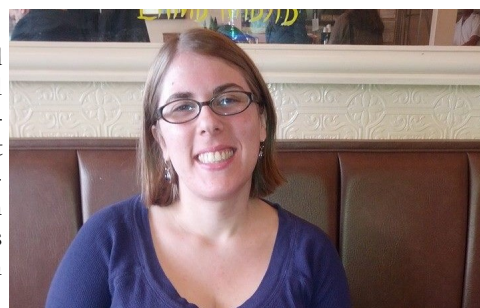
The Japanese Language Program would like to thank two prominent faculty members who are leaving at the end of the 2014 academic year. We would first like to thank Professor Fumiko M. Bacon, who taught both Japanese language and history classes here at Seton Hall. She announced that this will be her final semester, and will be moving to California for retirement.

Professor Felicia Kazin-Penchina (pictured right), adjunct professor of Japanese, will also be leaving the program to pursue full-time work at Golda Och Academy in West Orange, NJ. Initially she received her master's degree in Asian Studies here at Seton Hall in 2012. Professor Kazin-Penchina was kind enough to provide the newsletter with

some final remarks about her time spent at Seton Hall.

*"I loved teaching everyone at SHU, especially the 3rd year students in my Japanese class whom I had the privilege of teaching for a full two years. I loved seeing their Japanese ability improve so substantially during that time. Best of luck to everyone in their Japanese studies."*

We wish her the best of luck at Golda Och and all her future endeavors!



## The Seventeenth Annual Graduate Symposium on Japanese Studies



Japan Week 2014 was brought to a close on Friday, April 11th with the 17th Annual Japanese Studies Symposium. The symposium featured various presentations by students of Seton Hall's Asian Studies Graduate Program on historical political, economic, and pedagogical topics. These graduate student presentations were also judged by faculty of the Asian Studies department using a rubric for program assessment.

In the afternoon, the symposium welcomed guest speaker Dr. Thomas Radice (M.A. '01, Seton Hall University, Ph.D. '06 University of Pennsylvania), Associate Professor of History at Southern Connecticut University. Dr. Radice discussed the importance of performance as ritual in East Asian Thought, in particular, the catalogue of Confucian Classics. Dr. Radice went even further to suggest the role that such "ritual" could serve in the issues of contemporary society.

## *Dr. Edwin Pak-wah Leung's Research and Sabbatical Plans*



Dr. Edwin Pak-wah Leung has just published the second and enlarged edition of *Historical Dictionary of the Chinese Civil War* (co-author, with Christopher Lew). He was also elected by the Chinese University of Hong Kong as one of "the World's Most Outstanding Chinese University People" for his "academic excellence and promotion of

international cultural exchanges." He is currently an Honorary Guest Professor of China's Wuhan University, and an international consultant of the China Center for Modernization Research (CCMR) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Dr. Leung will be taking a sabbatical leave in 2014-2015 to conduct research for the following academic projects: (1.) "The Quasi-War in East Asia"; (2.) "Modern Changes in Chinese Diplomacy"; and (3.) co-editing the "Global Modernization Report: Selections of the First

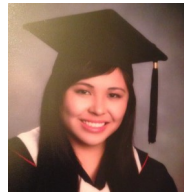
International Modernization Forum." This summer and Fall, he will be attending international academic conferences in Asia, and will be representing Seton Hall to Wuhan University as an Exchange Professor, and also as a Visiting Scholar of the University of Hong Kong's Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences. During 2014-2015, he can be reached by email at: Edwin.Leung@shu.edu.

## *Recent Achievements*



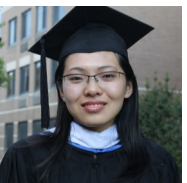
*Ting Zhang,*  
M.A. '13

Starting last fall, I have been working as a homeroom teacher the Yinghua International School located in Princeton, NJ. My students for the most part have no English background. I am teaching a Chinese language class, as well as other content based classes. I am happy to be applying the knowledge and training that I received during my time at Seton Hall. Teaching thus far has been an excellent learning opportunity and a good life experience in general.



*Myra Reyes,*  
B.A. '14

In August I will be relocating to Washington D.C. after being admitted into American University Washington College of Law for my J.D. It has always been my dream to become an attorney and I look forward to starting law school. My various experiences at Seton Hall University have inspired me to consider a specialty in Litigation or International Business Law and Trade.



*Xiaolu Zhang,*  
M.A. '14

Later this summer I will go back to my hometown in China and begin work as an employee for the Bank of China. The Bank of China, founded in 1912, is the oldest bank in China still in existence and has branches all over the world. I am looking forward to being a part of China's most international and diversified bank, which services customers all over mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and 37 other countries. I am very happy to be a part of the continuing legacy that the Bank of China has internationally.



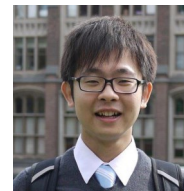
*Xu Xu,*  
M.A. '14

I have spent the past semester working as a drill instructor for Chinese language at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. The Chinese Language Department at Duke is part of the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Department, which is dedicated to teach their students how to become 21st century global citizens. The program, much like SHU, attempts to train their students in languages, literatures, visual cultures, and other forms of gross-cultural representations to prepare them for various professions.



*Thomas Hart,*  
M.A. '14

This summer I will start my new job as an Assistant Language Teacher for the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program in Saga Prefecture, Kyushu. As an ALT my primary job will be to cooperate with Japanese teachers of English and deliver lessons in the classroom, occasionally assisting with lesson planning and other teaching tasks. I am very excited to participate in the JET Program, as it gives me the opportunity to not only experience working abroad, but also help Japanese students become global citizens



*Licheng Zhu,*  
M.A. '14

I will continue on to study at the University of Chicago this coming September. My research will take advantage of unprecedentedly accumulated social data to establish statistical models to better understand patterns of human behavior when making political decisions involving environmental topics. My research will be interdisciplinary in nature, involving data science, positive political theory, game theory, machine learning and computational social science.

### *Join the Asian Studies Association*

If you wish to join, please contact Thomas Zucker, president of the Asian Studies Association, at [thomas.zucker@student.shu.edu](mailto:thomas.zucker@student.shu.edu) or Dr. Dongdong Chen, advisor for the Asian Studies Association, at [dongdong.chen@shu.edu](mailto:dongdong.chen@shu.edu)