

SETON HALL'S ASIAN VOICE

SPRING 2024

Dr. Diana Alvarez-Amell, Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Dr. Dongdong Chen, Director, Asian Studies Graduate Program

Dr. Shigeru Osuka, Undergraduate Advisor for Asian Studies Program

Jessica Wilson, Director, Global Learning Center

Message from the Department Chair, Dr. Diana Alvarez-Amell



It is once more my honor to address and welcome the Asian Studies community, a program that is a distinguished component of our Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. The knowledge and understanding of cultures can be a significant instrument to further human understanding and coexistence. First, I am proud to congratulate my Asian Studies colleagues who through their professional work in the classroom and in their scholarly work have consistently contributed to the discipline and our university while continuing with the traditional cultural activities that distinguish the program. Both Professors Shigeru Osuka and Dongdong Chen have been recognized outside the university; their opinion has been sought and cited in national and international newspapers. Both colleagues have continued to organize and lead highly interesting and informative cultural and academic activities for students. It is with pride that I thank them for their valuable contributions and repeat, congratulations, and welcome back!

Message from the Director of the Asian Studies Program, Dr. Shigeru Osuka

My academic year 2023-2024 was very busy as usual and ended. Personally, I took a sabbatical leave in the fall semester of 2023 to be a visiting researcher at the University of Tokyo, where I was immersed in collecting research materials and writing books. From the spring semester of 2024, then, Dr. Peter Shoemake, French faculty, received a grant from the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (UISFL) Program, U.S. Department of Education in 2023-2025, and as a member of the grant, I am currently writing a textbook on Japanese for Diplomacy and International Relations. In addition, this grant is scheduled to provide training for the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). Furthermore, with the development of technology and AI, it seems that we are entering a period in which the purpose and methods of foreign language education may be changed. We will be moving into an era where collaborative curricula and interdisciplinary education will be necessary for embarking L2 education. Lastly, I would like to thank administrators for their support including Dr. Jonathan Farina, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Kaiser, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Diana Alvarez-Amell, Department Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; and Jessica Wilson, Director, Global Learning Center.



Message from the Director of the Global Learning Center, Jessica Wilson

As Director of the Global Learning Center, I support the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures and all its programs. It has been a consistent delight to work closely with the Asian Studies program, assisting with and attending the wonderful events they hold for SHU students, faculty and staff, and alums. I reiterate what I have said in the past about Professors Chen, Osuka, and Gedacht being excellent, involved, caring teachers who challenge their students to excel. I am proud to watch the Chinese and Japanese language students achieve all that they have, and I hope they are all equally proud of themselves. I remain eager to work with Asian Studies on whatever exciting programming they plan in the future. I wish all who are graduating the very best in their future pursuits, and I look forward to continued interactions with the rest of the students. As always, my best to everyone in the program; I hope all who are interested in what Asian Studies offers will come and see for themselves what a wonderful program we have!



Asian Studies Homecoming: The Impacts of Earning a Degree in Asian Studies

By: Halima Koroma and Daniel Yan On October 2, 2023, the Asian Studies Program hosted a celebratory event that brought together students, alumni, and professors. The night highlighted the positive experiences that attendees had within the Asian Studies Program and emphasized how it has positively impacted their lives, as well as the lives of others.

Heartwarming speeches and presentations delivered by the speakers made it clear that the Asian Studies Program is an extraordinary program that every student at Seton Hall should consider.



Ted McGurrin, a Chinese language teacher at the West Orange School District, speaks about his time in the Asian Studies Program.

The night's overarching message showed students that proficiency in multiple languages and cultures is essential in today's world. Participating in the Asian Studies Program can help unlock numerous opportunities and provide a comprehensive understanding of various cultures, traditions, and languages. Pursuing a degree in Asian Studies can be life-changing. Graduates from this program continue contributing to a more globalized world by engaging with Asia's diverse cultures through pursuing a degree in Asian Studies. Notable individuals in the field highlight the significant positive impacts of such engagement in the following section:

Gabriella: A Global Perspective through Chinese Culture

Gabriella is currently an undergraduate student majoring in Diplomacy while simultaneously studying Intermediate Chinese. As an undergraduate student, she already has impressive accomplishments under her belt and is actively impacting the world; she is truly an example of how an Asian Studies degree can lead to great opportunities. Her journey in this field led her to intern with the White House and a non-profit organization. Gabriella attributes her success to the unique insights she acquired through learning Chinese culture and language. This education has allowed her the opportunity to develop a sense of respect for all groups of people, which she applies to her niche in foreign policy. Gabriella's story demonstrates that pursuing an Asian Studies degree can open the doors for students to international work.

Dr. Anne Gedacht: Sharing Expertise and Passion

Dr. Gedacht, a recently tenured professor at Seton Hall University who holds a joint appointment in History and Asian Studies, exemplifies how pursuing an Asian Studies degree can lead to a lifelong devotion and a fulfilling career in the field. Her extensive knowledge and expertise in Asian cultures and traditions have enabled her to share her passion for the subject with the academic community. Obtaining a degree in Asian Studies not only enriches one's own life but also offers the opportunity to inspire future generations to come.



Wei Xiang, now a Ph.D. student of Religion at Temple University, shared her experience at the Asian Studies Program.

Ian Murphy: A Personalized Learning Experience

Ian Murphy, a graduate majoring in Diplomacy and Modern Languages also contributed an article to the book "Reflections on Mainland China and Taiwan," which was edited by Professor Stone. who specialized in China and Taiwan, emphasizes the personalized approach provided by the Asian Studies program. He details how the close





interaction with professors and the individualized guidance he received equipped him with the skills to work on translating Chinese materials for the American market. This exemplifies how pursuing a degree in Asian Studies offers a tailored education, which can lead to unique career opportunities.

Michael Stone: Bridging Cultures through Literature

Michael Stone, the former Director of Global Learning Center, also graduated from our Graduate Program in Asian Studies. He edited the book “Reflections on Mainland China and Taiwan,” his endeavor to write this book is a testament to the impact of a degree in Asian Studies on fostering cultural understanding. As the previous Director of the Global Learning Center, he emphasizes the importance of diverse cultural backgrounds and languages in the workplace. This work illustrates how Asian Studies graduates can contribute to bridging cultural gaps through literature and shared knowledge.

Dr. Pak-Wah Edwin Leung: A Lifetime of Scholarship

Dr. Leung is a retired faculty from the Asian Studies Program at Seton Hall. He has had a remarkable career as a professor of Asian Studies, spanning over 40 years. His unwavering commitment to teaching and scholarship has positively impacted the lives of thousands of students globally. His lasting legacy highlights the significant impact that pursuing a degree in Asian Studies can have on aspiring scholars and educators.



Professor Emeritus, Pak-Wah Edwin Leung, Ph.D.,

Dr. Diana Alvarez Amell: A Multilingual and Cross-Cultural Advantage

Dr. Alvarez Amell, faculty of Spanish, chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, emphasizes the benefits of having knowledge and experience in diverse cultures and languages. She highlights how these skills can open up numerous opportunities in the workplace. Obtaining a degree in Asian Studies provides graduates with an advantage of comprehending the significance of cultural and linguistic diversity in the current global job market.

Qingqing Lan

Qingqing Lan, doing her PLD Program with the Harvard Business School in Cambridge, MA, shared her thoughts by joining in on TEAMS. Other alumni of Asian Studies who attended the event include Yanfei Li, Kristin Wingate, and Jerome Victor Ramos.



Earning a degree in Asian Studies is an enlightening journey that equips individuals with a profound understanding of diverse cultures and languages. The experiences shared by students, graduates, and professors alike demonstrate the far-reaching positive impacts of obtaining an Asian Studies degree. From promoting international diplomacy to making scholarly contributions, Asian Studies graduates play a crucial role in fostering cultural understanding and collaboration in our increasingly interconnected world. This degree opens doors to a range of fulfilling and impactful careers while promoting a deeper appreciation for the richness and beauty of Asian cultures.



Japanese Language Proficiency Test Administered at Seton Hall



The Japanese Program and Professor Mario Maximous hosted the 2023 JLPT on Sunday, December 3, 2024. The JLPT is a Japanese-Language Proficiency Test administered by American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ) in the U.S. and the toughest Japanese proficiency exam in the world. The JLPT began in 1984 and now nearly 1.4 million people take the exam worldwide; over 7,000 people took the exam in the US this year, and approximately 270 people participated in the exam at SHU. In the US, there are 18 test sites that offer the JLPT. For 2024, the JLPT was scheduled on Sunday, December

1, 2024. The purpose of the JLPT is to evaluate and certify Japanese-language proficiency of non-native speakers. JLPT certificates offer various advantages, ranging from recognition as academic credit and graduation certification at schools to preferential treatment at companies and acknowledgement of qualification in society. The JLPT certification is important for getting a job as well. Overseas, for example, there are a lot of companies that give an extra salary allowance if a person has a JLPT certification. SHU students are encouraged to participate in the JLPT opportunity.

Kendama Contest at Newly Renovated University Center

Kendama Contest was held on April 8, 2024, at the University Center, and 20 students received Starbucks gift certificates and over 200 students had many prizes hosted by the Japan Week. Kendama (*Lit.* sword and ball) is a traditional Japanese toy. It consists of a handle (ken), a pair of cups (sarado), and a ball (tama). Kendama is a popular toy for developing skills such as hand-eye coordination, focus, and perseverance. Currently, people use Kendama as a means of improving their concentration or as a stress-relief tool.



Japanese History Lecture by Dr. Anne Giblin-Gedacht

Professor Anne Giblin-Gedacht, Associate Professor of Japanese History, delivered her exciting and energetic lecture on *Invoking the Sengoku-Jidai: Between the Fantasy and History of Japan's Warring States Era* at Beck Room, University Library on April 8, 2024. The setting for countless manga, films, video games, and anime, Japan's Warring States Era evokes deep nostalgia about loyal samurai, ruthless warlords, naginata-wielding warrior monks, and secretive ninja. Professor Giblin-Gedacht answered for how much of what we consume about these archetypes is historically accurate and how much is fiction and who were the true heroes and villains of the Sengoku-jidai.



Japanese Tea Bowls Workshop

Dr. Shigeru Osuka conducted Japanese Tea Bowls Workshop on April 9, 2024, as a part of the Japan Week events. As Japanese matcha tea has influenced American society, we are now living in an era where we can enjoy matcha as part of matcha latte, matcha ice cream, matcha flavored chocolate, etc. However, it seems that Japanese tea bowls are not familiar, only a few collectors and people who are truly interested know about traditional Japanese matcha tea bowls. Dr. Osuka covered the history and characteristics of Ohi Tea bowls in Kanazawa, Raku Tea bowls in Kyoto, and Hagi Tea bowls at Hagi in Yamaguchi Prefecture, and served authentic high quality match tea by traditional matcha tea bowls. All participants enjoyed tea and matcha sweets.





Asian Studies Alumni Cori Hallock ('07) Delivered Her Special Lecture for Seton Hall Communities

On April 9, 2024, at Beck Room, University Library, Mrs. Cori Hallock talked on *Careers & Opportunities in US-Japan Grassroots Diplomacy*. She graduated from Seton Hall University with a B.A. in Spanish, a B.A. in Asian Area Studies



(Japanese), and a minor in Business Administration in 2007. During undergraduate, Cori attended Sophia University's Summer Intensive Program in 2005. As a student, Cori was an intern with the Japan-America Society in her native state of Indiana (JASI). She taught English in Hokkaido, Japan, through the JET Program in 2008-2009. Cori received her J.D. from Notre Dame Law School in 2011 and was licensed to practice law in Texas (inactive). Cori has worked with Japan-related non-profits for nearly 20 years. Currently, she is President of the Florida Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program Alumni Association, and a founding director of the Japan-America Society of Miami/South Florida. Before moving to Miami, she worked with the Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth (JASDFW) and the Fort Worth Japanese Society (FWJS).

She served on the FWJS board of directors from 2014 until 2022, where she served as chair of the Membership and Development Committee and chair of the Japanese American Oral History Project. During her time on the board, she helped FWJS obtain its first grants from the Japan Foundation and the North Texas Community Foundation's Fund to Advance Racial Equality. She was a performing member of FWJS Dondoko Taiko for 10 years. From 2014-2017, she served as Program Manager at JASDFW, and returned in 2023 to serve as Interim Executive Director. In her free time, she is an author and illustrator of children's books and enjoys traveling with her family.

SHU-Japan Exchange Program Summer 2023 Report

by Ross Bennett, '24. English and Asian Studies

On April 11, 2024, students Ross Bennett, Aaron Im, Navita Sivakumar, and Kaylee Hoo gave a presentation on their experiences during the Summer 2023 SHU-Japan Exchange Program at Sophia University in Tokyo. Hosted by the Director of International Student Services, Katsumi Kishida, students were able to learn more about the academic and travel opportunities that Seton Hall provides in their study abroad programs from past participants. Many of the locations that the students were able to visit in Japan, like a traditional hotel in Nikko and the Great Buddha in Kamakura, allowed them to learn about Japanese culture and customs firsthand as well as provided them with opportunities to socialize with fellow students and locals in the community. Living in Tokyo also taught the students a lot about the Japanese way of life. While exploring the city, students became familiar with the busy public transportation, shopping districts, and delicious foods. The participants shared how this change of pace taught them to be mindful of others on their daily commutes and to plan how they would invest their time in the city.



The classes and events at Sophia University span many subjects for students to learn more about Asia. The program provides courses on history, literature, and many contemporary topics like the pop culture of Japan. The students shared how they were able to communicate with other students from all over the world during these classes, learning about much more than Japan alone. This presentation gave the attendants a greater understanding of the value that the study abroad program provides and the many memories they can make in the process of learning.



Japanese Language Study Award Ceremony



The Japanese Program is pleased to honor its motivated and hardworking Japanese language learners. For the 2023-2024 academic year, 75 students have been studying Japanese language and culture, pursuing challenging curriculums in one of the most internationally well-known language programs. The awardees are expected to be future cultural ambassadors in the respective community, foster a peaceful global society, and continue to study Japanese as a lifelong learning pursuit. Congratulations to the awardees! Awards are Presented by Dr. Jonathan Farina, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Kaiser, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Diana Alvarez-Amell, Department Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Jessica Wilson, Director, Global Learning Center; and Dr. Shigeru Osuka, Director, Japanese Program.

First Year Japanese

Keira Bala, Freshman – *Visual and Sound Media*
 Christopher Bernal, Sophomore – *Computer Science*
 Ralph Brucal, Freshman – *Nursing*
 Ayame Ciocoiu, Freshman – *Biology*
 Stephanie Blint, Sophomore – *Biology*
 Shrina Kodali, Sophomore – *Marketing*
 John Trojan, Sophomore – *Physics*
 Sean Fallon, Junior – *Biology*

Second Year Japanese

Brennan Ozkan, Sophomore – *English*
 Samia Raza, Junior – *Communications*

Third Year Japanese

Robert Villarini, Junior – *Diplomacy and International Relations*
 Oluwayinka Akindebe, Junior – *Diplomacy and International Relations*

Japanese Digital Storytelling Awards Ceremony

The Japanese Program has integrated technology into its language curriculum and encourages students to apply this technology whenever possible. Since 2009, the Japanese Program has emphasized the use of Digital Storytelling, which integrates essay writing and visual images into one movie. In recognition of students' hard work, dedication, and further commitment to their role in the global community, the Japanese Program honors the following 2024 Japanese Digital Storytelling awardees. The winners received a certificate and prizes from Dr. Jonathan Farina, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Kaiser, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Diana Alvarez-Amell, Department Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Prof. Jessica Wilson, Director, Global Learning Center; and Dr. Shigeru Osuka, Director, Japanese Program.



First Year Japanese

Justine Huang, Freshman – *Undecided*
 Ryan Catarroja, Sophomore – *Art Design-Interactive Design-Multimedia*
 Minah **Kim**, Sophomore – *Art Design-Interactive Media-Multimedia*
 Megan Dunn, Junior – *Biology*
 Inshan Arumugan, Senior – *Accounting*
 Joshua Kinch, Senior – *Visual Sound Media*
 Erick Seibel, Senior – *Physics*

Second Year Japanese

Wilnica Destine, Sophomore – *Diplomacy and International Relations*
 Tasiah Mayfield, Junior – *Music*

Third Year Japanese

Emily Van Auken, Senior – *Diplomacy and International Relations*





Japanese Consulate Visits Seton Hall

by Ross Bennett, '24. English and Asian Studies



On April 11, 2024, Deputy Consul General Kazuya Mori visited during Japan Week to discuss the contemporary relationship between the US and Japan. This event was hosted by Professor Hiroko Ishikawa. He entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan after graduating from the Faculty of Law at the University of Kyoto. He attended the University of Pittsburgh to complete his graduate studies at the School of Public and International Affairs. In 2006 he served as the Deputy Director at the United Nation Policy Division of the Foreign Policy Bureau, then in 2010 the First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in the Russian Federation.

He has served his current position as the Director of the Japan Information Center at the Consulate General of Japan in New York since 2022. Kazuya Mori shared with the students at Seton Hall University insightful information about the modern-day relationship between America and Japan. Some of the discussion included the influence of Japanese popular culture in the US like anime and Japanese pop music groups. Steering the presentation in this direction made it interesting for the students of Seton Hall and illustrated that there are many ways that Japan and America engage in foreign affairs.

The First Laugh Out Loud Contest

On Friday, April 12, 2024, the first Laugh Out Loud Contest (LOL) was held at the University Center with support of TLTC. “Wa ha ha ha” Laughing is good for health and mental conditions. Japanese culture has practicing Laugh Out Loud Contest since old times and now Seton Hall University presented the opportunity to express yourself. Participants competed from 3 feet from the recording device; at the start signal laugh as loud as you can within 20 seconds. The maximum volume you reach within the time will be recorded! First, Second, Third, and most funny laugh receive prizes. The first-place winner has received a free air-ticket between the US and Japan, sponsored by the United Airlines/Amnet New York.



Japan Week 2024 Luncheon at Harusame Japanese Restaurant

by Deshawn Romolon, '25, Diplomacy and International Relations

The successful endeavors of Japan Week concluded with a luncheon at Harusame Japanese Restaurant, located in South Orange Village on Friday, April 12, 2024. Students enjoyed a full course meal, exhibited with different aspects of Japanese cuisine, from edamame and sushi appetizers to chicken teriyaki meals, finishing off with green tea and frozen mochi treats. Students learned

proper sushi eating etiquette presented by Professor Shigeru Osuka. In addition to the meals, the luncheon featured and recognized the Japan Week Committee, comprised of Deans, Chairs and Professors from the College of Arts and Sciences; Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; and Asian Studies Program. Furthermore, a recognition of appreciation to the Sofia University Exchange student, Ms. Saki Fujimoto, was commemorated with photos and flowers. With the luncheon marking the conclusion of the 2024 Japan Week, all members shared the celebration by posing for a photograph, a token of their enjoyment and involvement.



Asian Studies Program Hosted High School Competition to Showcase AI's Influence on Chinese Culture and Language Education

By: Jessica Huang

On April 13, 2024, the Asian Studies Program partnered with the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation to host the 16th Chinese Cultural Project Contest in Bethany Hall. As finalists, seven teams of high school students competed for the \$700 prize. They answered the question, “How Does Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact the Learning of Chinese Language and Culture?” Students were encouraged to present their findings in both Mandarin and English. For the first time, the competition was open to high schools in and beyond New Jersey. This year had two students from California. Participating schools included Watchung Hills Regional, Folsom High School, Columbia High School, Ridge High School, Rutgers Preparatory School, Bridgewater-Raritan High School, and Fort Lee High School.



To provide evidence, students utilized AI-driven platforms like Duolingo, ChatGPT, and Google Translate. They also collected quantitative data from surveys, enacted skits, recited poetry, or made visual art. In their findings, the benefits of AI on learning the Chinese language were that users can learn at a pace tailored to them, applications make learning accessible, it helps users learn vocabulary, and it provides instant feedback.

However, the participants have also found many setbacks when utilizing AI. Translation websites are too literal, subscriptions need money for full access to the application, people can be too reliant and not check the AI's accuracy, and AI cannot comprehend complex characters or words that have historical/cultural meaning. Moreover, AI can improve cultural learning but also struggles with understanding cultural nuances. The main merit is that people can access information quickly and concisely through AI. But, learning Chinese culture through AI erases authenticity, it cannot convey cultural messages with real emotions, does not understand cultural-social nuances, the generation of photos and art are false, and it reinforces biases and stereotypes.

The competition sparked meaningful reflection on the role of advancing technology in learning the Chinese language and culture. Students were engaged in not only presenting their findings but answering thoughtful questions from judges. In the end, Columbia High School secured first place with their interactive robot AI character, poem recitation, tai chi, and live skit presentation.

Exploring China Through The Lens of Bill Einreinhofer

By: Daniel Yan

Bill Einreinhofer's documentary “China: Frame by Frame” was showcased on April 17, 2024, by the Asian Studies department. The documentary featured Seton Hall's Professor Michael Stone, former Director of the Global Learning Center, who shared his expertise and insights on China and its culture. Bill Einreinhofer, a three-time Emmy Award winner and Chair Emeritus of the Broadcast Journalism department at the New York Film Academy, developed and produced programming for ABC, CBS, Discovery, HBO, and PBS. He spoke about his creative process of capturing authentic footage and real voices to showcase the rich history behind China and its growth over the years.

Einreinhofer shared that he never intended to have such an extensive career covering different aspects of Chinese history and culture. However, he received many offers to return and share China's stories with the rest of the world, which he took. Einreinhofer also shared some experiences with the Chinese people, including a family who showed him great warmth and hospitality, invited him over, and prepared a pot of hot coffee. When he expressed that it was too warm outside to drink a hot beverage, they had their daughter run to the grocery store to return with ice cream for him. Einreinhofer shared how touched he was by their hospitality and kindness.





Moreover, Einreinhofer’s 2022 documentary “Unsettled History: America, China, and the Doolittle Tokyo Raid” and his 2023 film “China: Frame by Frame” have been seen on over 250 Public TV stations. He is currently working on his next documentary, “Valor and Memory,” to be aired on Public TV stations this November. His work aims to bridge the gap between cultures and societies, helping the rest of the world see China from a different perspective.



Participating in the 2024 “Chinese Bridge” Competition for Eastern US Region Finals

By: Emily Geraldine Pierre

I had the honor of being chosen to participate in the 2024 Chinese Bridge Competition, hosted by China Institute in New York City, on May 18. It was a lot of fun meeting other people on the journey to learning Chinese, just as I am. The College division was made up of six competitors in total, including me. It was a fantastic opportunity to engage with the very people who have been in the same position as I am right now, and it was amazing to see how far learning a foreign language has brought them. The competition consisted of an impromptu speech with the theme “One World, One Family,” a short conversation with the judges, and a talent performance. Only after the event was over did I realize that this was my first time ever publicly speaking Chinese—I have only spoken aloud so much in my dorm room or in the classroom, and holding a conversation can be much more intimidating than just remembering grammar rules and which tone I should use! But the judges were exceedingly kind and encouraging, and they inspired me to continue to hone my Chinese skills in the future.

Seeing little kids as young as elementary also made me consider, learning a language is different from learning any other subject—it is like learning a new mindset as well. Language opens a universe of other things, too—the culture of a language, its logical internal structure, expansive histories of the people who use it. Personally, it unlocked a sixth sense in me.

Ambassador Huang Ping said it best: “The best way to learn a culture is through its language.”



In the end, there were two of each place awarded and equally distributed among the six of us, so I won third place along with another contestant. I will admit, I was a little disappointed—I felt as though I worked so hard on my speech and performance. But then I considered, I never dreamed of learning a language this far. The confidence that I have acquired, as well as my pride in my own skills that I have improved with the help of my professors, is an accomplishment I once believed was impossible, merely because I did not believe in myself. The Chinese Bridge Competition was a breakthrough in my college career, as well as my journey as a student of life—every student at that competition rose to their position on their own accord, by

their own merits. Only now do I realize that every day is a wonderful day to learn. If you stick to something long enough, you may be pleasantly surprised by how far it can take you.

My gratitude goes towards Professor Chen and her colleagues, who came to cheer me on during the event, the directors and judges, and China Institute for this memorable experience. I look forward to competing again in the future!



Dr. Mary Balkun Received Japan Week Award

Dr. Mary Balkun, Professor of English and Director of Faculty Development has received the Japan Week Award. Dr. Balkun's research interests include material culture, gender studies, women's travel narratives, and the construction of identity in literature. She is the author of *the American Counterfeit: Authenticity and Identity in American Literature and Culture*, as well as articles on Phillis Wheatley, Sarah Kemble Knight, Walt Whitman, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and William Faulkner. Dr. Balkun has been serving the Japan Week Committee since 1998 and is a frequent visitor to Japan. Her advice to Japan Week is a key to the success of the annual event. Congratulations to Mary and thanks so much for your continued support of Japan Week.



Farewell to Katsumi Kishida, Office of International Programs



Miss Kasumi Kishida, Director of International Student Services at Office of International Programs, left SHU and relocated to Kyoto, Japan to be a director of International Programs at newly opened Temple University Kyoto Campus. Kishida-san has 20 years of experience in International Education and is an expert in international student mobility. Her areas of expertise are International Student and Scholar Services, F-1/J-1 regulatory compliance, education abroad, and global programming initiatives. Originally from Japan, Kishida-san has experience living in both the United States and in Japan. She earned her B.A. in International Relations at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan and earned her M.A. in International Education at Teachers College, Columbia University as an F-1 international student herself. Since her arrival to SHU in summer 2023, Kishida-san has contributed to the Asian studies program. Ogenki de!

Dr. Anne Giblin-Gedacht Awarded the College of Arts and Science Researcher of the Year

Dr. Anne Giblin Gedacht, Associate Professor of History in the Department History, has received the College of Arts and Science Researcher of the Year Award 2024. Recently, she published the book, *Toboku Unbounded: Regional Identity and the Mobile Subject in Prewar Japan, Studies in Global Social History, Studies in Global Migration History* (Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, Dec 22, 2022). This work examined the domestic history of Japan using a global perspective with case studies in the Philippines, colonial Manchuria, Canada, the United States, and Brazil. She is serving Co-PI for a Cultivating Research, Innovation, and Talent Award's Opportunity Meets Innovation Challenge Grant for the project "Voices of 'Super Typhoon Yolanda' and the 'Great Tohoku Earthquake' on Social Media in the Philippines and Japan." (2021-2023). Congratulations.



Saki Fujimoto, SHU-Japan Exchange Student from Sophia University, Received Japan Week Community Service Award

Miss Saki Fujimoto, an exchange student from Sophia University, Tokyo in 2023-2024, has received Japan Week Community Service Award at the Japan Week Luncheon on April 12, 2024. She served Japanese Tutoring during spring 2024 and contributed to the student's improvement of Japanese proficiency. She took several courses from business, sociology, environmental studies, psychology, and Asian studies. She wants to pursue an MBA and become CPA, and work at the International Accounting Firms. Her GPA is a perfect 4.0 for a total of 27 credit hours. Photo is taken with 2023 SHU-Japan Exchange program participants.





Updates from Asian Studies Alumni



Chih-Jen Melvin Lee

Chih-Jen Melvin Lee, Lecturer in Chinese Language at the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania, received his Ph.D. from the same university in the summer of 2023. His doctoral research, supervised by Dr. Victor Mair, focused on the history of Chinese language education in the United States. His dissertation, titled “The History and Development of Chinese Language Education in the United States: A Study on the Policy, Pedagogy, and Textbooks of the Period 1939-1958,” sheds light on this significant period.

Yuzheng Li

Yuzheng Li earned her Ph.D. from Waseda University, Japan, in September 2023. Specializing in media studies within the Department of International Culture and Communication, her dissertation titled “The Mirror of Contemporary Chinese Women: Images of Women in Contemporary Chinese Romantic Fiction” delves into representations of women in modern Chinese romantic literature.



Jingsheng Ren

Jingsheng Ren, currently residing in Vancouver, serves as the Vice President of the Chinese Canadian Writers' Association. He has published hundreds of articles and authored 12 books. Some of his recent books are on the topic of teaching Chinese in North America, and the Chinese Image Teaching Method. His writings have won various awards, including the Taiwan Overseas Chinese Literary Award in 2019, 2020 and 2023.



Time to Get Moving! My Life Journey

By: Pao Fong Cheng

When I decided in my 50s to leave Taiwan's comfort zone and pursue a master's degree in the United States, many voices told me, "Why make things difficult for yourself? Why are you so discontent and seeking hardship?" In most people's eyes, I already had a lot and was considered a winner in life.

It's been 30 years since I attended the University of Maryland, and I wondered if I could still handle the pressure of further studies. Amid an enviable yet monotonous daily life, I couldn't help but wonder if my life should be limited to this routine. What were the things I had always wanted to do but had never been able to accomplish?

Gathering the courage to apply for a master's program was not smooth sailing, given how long it had been since I was a student. Just when I was about to lose hope, an angelic email changed my life. This gift was from Dr. Dongdong Chen from the Asian Studies department at Seton Hall University, whom I deeply respect and am grateful for as my mentor. In 2019, with great hope, I went to the United States to pursue my master's degree. Although I faced many academic, living, and interpersonal challenges, these new experiences enriched my life.

I was, without a doubt, the oldest student in the class and old enough to be the mother of the other classmates. Being surrounded by young classmates made me feel physically and mentally younger. Some classmates told me they shared my story with their mothers, encouraging them that as long as they have the will, they, too, can create their own magical journey.

I never realized my resilience until I completed my master's degree, worked as a teaching assistant, and even served as an adjunct professor for a year. In May of this year, I was admitted into the CIFLTE program at Teachers College, Columbia University, for the TCSOL/ TESOL Dual Certificate Summer Program in Osaka, Japan. Those achievements completely changed how others defined me before. Therefore, I learned that I should not let others define me. Actual achievement is not society's standard of success but finding and embracing my true life's journey.



Publications from Faculty

In March, Dr. Dongdong Chen published a chapter entitled "Psych Verbs" in *The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition, Morphosyntax, and Semantics*. Psych verbs, such as *fear, love, care, disappoint*, denote psychological processes or mental states. They have drawn special attention from linguists and language acquisition researchers alike. The arbitrary alignment of thematic roles with syntactic positions in psych verbs, where Experiencer arguments can function as subjects or objects, presents a challenge for second language learners. This chapter offers a critical overview of the studies conducted to answer the questions such as, What theoretical accounts have been proposed to explain these properties across languages? How are psych verbs represented in learners' grammars? What difficulties do noncanonical semantic-syntactic mapping and other properties pose for second language learners? Additionally, it proposes directions for future research on L2 acquisition of psych constructions. Providing innovative and comprehensive coverage of research on the second language acquisition (SLA) of morphosyntax,

semantics, and the interface between the two, the Handbook is indispensable to SLA researchers and students who work on any aspect of the SLA of morphosyntax or semantics.

Meanwhile, Dr. Chen's latest research, *A Hybrid Approach to Teaching Chinese through Digital Humanities, CALL, and Project-Based Learning*, has been slated to publish by Routledge on August 15, 2024 (<https://www.routledge.com/A-Hybrid-Approach-to-Teaching-Chinese-through-Digital-Humanities-CALL-and-Project-Based-Learning/Chen/p/book/9781032272757>). Being the first volume that covers the fields of Digital Humanities, Computer-Based Language Learning, and Project-Based Learning, this work makes a strong case for the importance of incorporating CALL, DH, and PBL for effective language learning.

