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2018
East Asian Festival

Monday, October 29
4:00-6:30 pm
Dolan Center for Science and Technology Atrium

Samples of Asian Foods  Live performances!
Japanese Flower Arranging  Japanese Tea Ceremony
Calligraphy  Photo booth, Crafts, & More

Free & Open to the Public

Sponsored by John Carroll University East Asian Studies Program

For more information, contact EAS Director Keiko Nakano, knakano@jcu.edu or Brenda Bailey, bbailey@jcu.edu
The 20th Annual JASCO
Japanese Speech Contest

Japanese-language Learners in Ohio!
It’s time to showcase your accomplishments and win prizes!

Categories:
- High School Level
- College Level
- Advanced Level

Deadline to apply:
Friday, January 18, 2019

Application and Guidelines:
Visit www.jas-co.org/SpeechContest or contact jasco@jas-co.org

Awards:
1st place - $500 Prize
2nd place - $200 Gift Certificate

5 Easy Steps to Participate:
1. Write an original speech on a topic of your choice
2. Practice and record your speech (under 3 minutes)
3. Submit your application by Jan. 18, 2019
4. JASCO will announce the finalists by Feb. 1, 2019
5. Finalists will perform their speeches on Mar. 2, 2019

Organized by
Made possible through support from:

JASCO
CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN DETROIT
JAPAN FOUNDATION
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES
Almost every year for the past 19 years, CWRU students of Japanese Studies Program have participated in the annual JASCO Speech Contest, with a total of 23 finalists selected. Our prize winners include…

**Yang Han**, 1st place (‘18)
**Yue Li**, Consul General Award (‘16)
**John Foisotte**, 2nd place (‘15)
**Adam Church**, 3rd place (‘14)
**Steven Rodney**, 1st place (‘01)

**Chujun Zhao**, 1st place (‘16)
**Esther Sun**, Pronunciation and Intonation Award (‘16)
**Peng Sun**, 1st place (‘14)
**Vivian Chen**, judges’ special prize (‘14)

I felt that the speech contest was a great opportunity for me (and students who are studying Japanese language) to improve essay writing skills and spoken Japanese fluency. The entire process - from speech crafting and draft editing to receiving the finalist email and rehearsing the speech, definitely helped me connect to the Japanese language on a more personal level. Now, if you are on the fence because you are unsure whether you will make it to the final round, just go for it. There’s nothing for you to lose! If you do decide to participate in it, feel free to reach out to the Japanese lecturers in the department for help along the way - they will be more than happy to help you with it.

Yan Jie Lee (‘17 finalist)

Find more information about the contest on

http://jas-co.org/SpeechContest

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2Pz5YNmHVMf_BEVPbjIsOw/videos
フランス最初のアニメ：ラディアン
First French Anime – Radiant

カメラン・ホチュベルグ
Cameron Hochberg (a student in JAPN201: Intermediate Japanese I)

『ラディアン』は、ユーロマンガという出版社（漫画雑誌）の新しい漫画です。今NHKでアニメをやっていますが、この漫画は「漫画」ではありません。日本の漫画ではなくて、フランスの漫画です。フランスでフランスの漫画は「マンフラン」と呼びます。世界で、フランスは日本の次に、漫画やアニメを見ることが好きな国です。

今、『ラディアン』は、世界中が注目しているアニメだから、フランス人にとっては感動的ですね。『ラディアン』はトニー・ヴァレントが描いたマンフランで、出版社はアンカマフランスです。日本ではユーロマンガという雑誌で、日本語に翻訳された『ラディアン』が読めます。そして、アニメはNHK。どれもとても有名な会社です。

『ラディアン』はファンタジー世界の物語です。空からやってくるネメシスと呼ばれる怪物から世界を救うために大魔法使いを目指す少年・セトの物語です。

タイトルの『ラディアン』は、ネメシスの巣があるという伝説の地の名前です。

ジャンルは少年漫画・アニメかもしれませんが、絵はとてもきれいだし、フランス最初のアニメだし、いろいろなキャラクターの声優は有名だし、このアニメをみなさんにおススメします！
“Radiant” is the new manga from the magazine/publisher *Euro Manga*. There is now an anime version of Radiant broadcasted on NHK (a Japan’s national public broadcasting organization). However, this manga isn’t a “manga”. It isn’t Japanese but French. In France, French manga are called *Manfran*. France is the second biggest consumer of manga and anime in the world after Japan. As a Frenchman, I’m excited that people from all over the world were waiting for this anime adaptation. The author of the Radiant is Tony Valente. The editors of the manga are *Ankama Éditions* and *Euro Manga*, but the anime is produced by NHK. All are very famous companies.

The Radiant anime is the story of the world of Fantasia. In this world, creatures falling from the sky, called Nemesis, only bring about disasters. They bring fear and death to all humans they touch. Even those who survive their touch are permanently cursed. There are those who stand to fight these dangerous foes. People who have survived contact with the Nemesis, tainted humans who bear their curse and are, at times, more fearsome than the Nemesis themselves, are the Sorcerers. This is the story of a boy who strives to become a great sorcerer to save the world!

This may be a shônen manga, but the drawings are really good. It’s the first “French” anime and the seiyūs are very famous too, so I recommend this anime to everyone.

Official Anime Promotion Video: [https://youtu.be/3Pg7ZasceEE](https://youtu.be/3Pg7ZasceEE)
I recently heard about the Shinkai Makoto Exhibition that is currently being held at Seoul Arts Center in Seoul, South Korea (as of August 2018). Since I am a big fan of the movie 君の名は (Your Name), I decided to see the artwork created by its director, Shinkai Makoto. I was only allowed to take pictures in limited areas, thus I was not able to capture the exhibition itself. The exhibition did not allow photographs to be taken of Shinkai’s original work and some story boards for all of his movies.

I learned from this exhibition that Shinkai did not come from an artistic background, and he is truly deemed an artistic genius. I was able to see comparisons of real photographs and the drawing he made directly from those photographs, and I could see that he gets most of his inspirations from natural scenery and certain neighborhoods. By comparing his artwork from his earlier movies to more recent ones, such as 君の名は(Your Name) or 言の葉の庭 (Garden of Words), I could see that there has been a stylistic change that has made him an even better artist. This could be a reason behind his recent success – that he improves over time. An emphasis that was made throughout the exhibition was Shinkai’s creative play with light, and how he wanted to bring out the natural light into each and every scene. This allowed a sense of realness to be brought into a lot of settings.

After a tour of the artwork, there was a fun activity using a tracer, which was my favorite part of the whole exhibit. After the tour of the exhibition, I also purchased 3 novels written by Shinkai to see if I can catch any additional details that I might have missed in the movies.
Applying for the JET Program

Esther Sun (Class of 2018)

For those that do not know, the JET program is a special teaching program for English speakers (preferably native) to go to Japan and teach... English. You can apply for the JET program if you are a native English speaker or prove that you have native level fluency. (If you are a Japanese citizen there are a couple more restrictions, but you can look at those on their website.) You do not need any specific education background to teach in the JET program. I studied engineering, and the only teaching experience I had before the JET program was private tutoring in high school, and plenty of JETs have had no teaching experience at all. Please note that if you apply for the JET program, expect a lot of e-mails; however, many of them may bring your hopes up with the title, but then the contents tell you to wait.

If you are planning on applying to the JET program and have not started yet, I recommend you start right now. The JET program application requires you to physically mail all your papers in as well as submit them online. If you submit your forms online but do not mail them in, you will be cut. Do not wait until the last minute to mail your forms in, mail them in ASAP. I know it is rare to have to send physical papers in in this century, but this is a test of determination! For those that have never sent mail before, all you need to do is buy some letter-size manila envelopes from the store, stamps from Wade or Thwing, and just put the envelope into any blue USPS mailbox. Make sure you have attached the correct postage! The application procedure is rather straightforward, so I will be focusing on the interview part. My only advice is to read the directions carefully and do not staple your papers. Also, you need to distinguish yourself from the thousands of other people applying, so think hard about what you put in your application.
In late December/early January, you will find out if you passed the preliminary screening. If you have, congratulations, time for part two. Once you receive the confirmation e-mail, you will have to wait a couple more days after you accept the confirmation to know when your interview is. Unfortunately, applicants do not get to choose what day or time to have their interview. You will receive another e-mail telling you when your interview is. You will have to pay for transportation to get to your interview location (the closest consulate from or near where you are departing from).

The interview is done by three people, usually a former JET and two Japanese people of varying backgrounds. (I was nervous during my interview, so I don’t remember exactly who my interviewers were, but the Japanese interviewers were very distinguished.) The interview itself is like a normal interview, for the most part. Dress appropriately (business attire is highly recommended), and show up early. Also, keep in mind that your interview will be held at a consulate so there will be extra security; therefore, do not bring anything dangerous with you. Besides the normal interview questions, be ready for specific questions. For example, they asked me about my engineering background, and why I was applying to be a teacher. I also put in my application that I like karaoke and, coincidentally, one of my interviewers was a linguistics teacher who wrote about using karaoke to learn a language, so we talked about karaoke. Some JETs get asked controversial questions like, “What would you do if a student asked you why the U.S. bombed Nagasaki and Hiroshima?” JETs who have tattoos are sometimes asked if they would hide their tattoo or what they would do if they were denied entry because of their tattoo. (By the way, tattoos do not disqualify you from the JET program; a lot of JETs have tattoos.)

I recommend that you think about your opinions on history, controversial topics, and politics before going into the JET program interview. It is very hard to predict what kind of question you will be asked, so that is the best advice I can give you. One of the interviewers asked me what my favorite book was, and I was so surprised that I could not think of any books at all and I ended up answering with “One Piece.” They could ask you literally anything. Answer truthfully
and show your own personality. None of the JETs that I have met follow any sort of mold. Everyone is very different and come from very different backgrounds. I am not a JET interviewer, so I cannot tell you exactly what they are looking for, but I can say for sure that the interview is where you present your ability to adapt, your way of thinking, and your communication skills. Every interview is specific to the applicant, so you will not get the same interview as I did.

If you put in your application that you can speak Japanese, they will do part of the interview in Japanese, so be ready for that. The interviewers will start with basic conversation questions like, “Where are you from?” or “What do you like?” They will ask harder questions if you can answer the easier ones. If you are scared of being interviewed in Japanese, don’t be. They are not going to disqualify you if you mess up; I think they are just testing your proficiency level. I am pretty sure you can only gain points during the Japanese interview, unless you are using some weird Japanese slang or something. If you can use 敬語 or 謙譲語 then that is definitely a plus. Use this time to also show that you are familiar with Japanese customs, if you are!

Lastly, there is no guarantee that you will have to in your interview, but I had to “teach” a class of “elementary kids” for my interview. They gave me 1 minute to think about a short lesson plan and then I flailed about in front of the interviewers, who pretended to be elementary kids (which was pretty funny because they were very much not elementary school kids), for what felt like eternity, until they told me to stop. I talked to some other JETs and it seems to be up to the interviewers whether they want you to do a mock lesson. It seems to be that if you have no education background, it is likely that you will be asked to do a mock lesson, but I have no real data to back this up, as I did not survey a large enough sample size of JETs. Just be ready for one.

Every situation is different, so try to be flexible and ready for anything. Good luck on your applications! If you have any questions, feel free to shoot me an e-mail at exs381@case.edu! Also, here is a Reddit post from an alleged interviewer for JET with some more advice: https://www.reddit.com/r/JETProgramme/comments/5n7xm8/advice_from_an_interviewer/
A trip to Okinawa
by Chujun Zhao (Class of 2017)

Okinawa, known as one of the most famous places to visit in Japan, impressed me in various aspects. There are hundreds of islands in Okinawa, and the place I spent my five days visiting was the main island. We went to Okinawa because we wanted to escape from the busy city (Tokyo), and we wanted to spend some time relaxing ourselves on the beach.

The weather happened to be cloudy during our visit, so unfortunately we did not get any chance to do any marine activities, due to the weather. However, the weather did prevent us from getting sunburned on the beach. The Okinawa Sea is very clean and has beautiful colors and various creatures in it. It looks a little bit like Hawaii to me.
Food tastes differently in Okinawa. In general, the taste of the food is heavier. Okinawan people use more seasoning for cooking than people in Tokyo. In addition, people in Okinawa also eat food that people in Tokyo do not usually eat, for example, pig feet (picture on the left).

We were lucky enough to have a guy play the instrument called 三線 for us and he could actually use that instrument to play pop music, as well! That was quite amazing.
Another thing I need to mention is that the pineapples in Okinawa are incredibly delicious. The first day we went to the supermarket, we saw fruits with labels that gave us information about the level of sweetness.

Pineapple: sweetness 18
Mango: sweetness 17

The pineapples in Okinawa are so sweet, juicy, and delicious that they easily get sold out. Every evening my friend and I had to rush to the nearby supermarket to buy the pineapples. (We also bought two intact pineapples and took them back to Tokyo because they were so delicious.) A fun fact of this is that, on our way to the supermarket, we met the Japanese idol Kamenashi Kazuya in the elevator of our hotel. But both of us were worrying so much that the pineapples would be sold out, that we did not talk to him, but chose instead to rush to the supermarket first!

Another snack I want to introduce is the sweet potato tart. The Okinawa sweet potato tart has become very popular among tourists. This tart could be eaten in two ways: frozen or microwaved. The frozen one tastes more like ice cream. The microwaved one, apparently, tastes sweeter. If you have a chance to visit Okinawa, try this tart and you will not regret it.
We also spent a day in the 美ら海水族館 (https://churaumi.okinawa/en/). Compared to the one in Shinagawa, this aquarium is bigger and has more types of animals from the sea. There is also a beautiful beach in the park.
One special thing needs to be mentioned. There is a café in the aquarium that allows you to sit right next to the biggest fish tank. If you plan to go there, make your reservation in advance!

We could easily feel that people in Okinawa are way more hospitable and warmhearted, compared to people in Tokyo. The connections between people are stronger, and even the way Okinawa people talk made us feel their optimistic nature and easygoing personality.

I think I will find another chance to visit Okinawa again. Okinawa is definitely one of the places I will recommend to my friends if they are making travel plans 😊
Would you like to write your own article to share your love of Japan, its culture and society? Do you want to share your favorite anime, manga, video games, novels, sports, etc.? or share student activities, events and other interesting information?

Please do!!

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY TAKING A COURSE IN THE JAPANESE STUDIES PROGRAM, YOU MAY EARN EXTRA CREDIT FOR THE COURSE(S) YOU ARE IN!
CONTACT YOUR INSTRUCTOR ABOUT MORE INFORMATION.

How to submit your articles?

1. Submit an article as Microsoft Word document (or Google Docs)
2. Pictures for your article should be e-mailed and not inserted into the article
3. Include a heading and subheading (if applicable)
4. Include your name and the course in which you are/were enrolled (if applicable)
5. Send your article to yuki.togawa@case.edu

Each article should be at least 100 words (either in Japanese or English).
Submit by the end of each month to be featured for the following month!

Next newsletter issue would be Thanksgiving Break Edition
Of course, you can submit an article unrelated to the theme!

Articles can also be held for use in future issues.
If an article requires excessive editing, you will be asked to rework your article and it could be reserved for a future issue.

Deadline for the Next Issue: Nov. 21, 2018