The Japanese Studies Program

Summer 2024
れいわ ねんなっこう
令和6年夏号

日本語ニュースレター

Illustrated by Chengling Zhuge (JAPN102 SP24)

日本語ニュースレター Japanese Studies Program Newsletter 1
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Matthew Ellerthorpe, who minors in Japanese, is going to teach English in Japan as an English language teacher (ELT) through The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program. He answered a couple of questions in this interview.

Q. Why did you choose the education industry?

Prior to choosing the JET Program, I have had many opportunities instructing children in areas such as swimming and karate. In positions such as these, I have had the opportunity to be both the student and the teacher. Before I was teaching, I was first learning, and I had some many memorable teachers when I was a student. When I was teaching in these positions, it was very rewarding and fulfilling to pass on this previously learned knowledge to other people and watch them progress in the same way that I did. I have had many wonderful Japanese teachers both at CWRU and during my time studying abroad, and now I wish to teach my knowledge of English to students in Japan.
Q. What did you do or keep in mind during your job-hunting period?

I often listened to my family when choosing where to apply and when I had any confusion during the process. I have two older siblings who have been through the job-hunting process before, so they were able to give me a lot of advice throughout the process. I also met with my advisors when making the final decision to join the JET program. I think that it is very important to listen to the experiences of others in order to choose the best job for you.

Q. Tell us what you would like to do after the JET program.

Right now, I’m not sure what exactly I want to do after the JET program. I think that I want to go into fields like English education and translation between English and Japanese, but I am not sure exactly what position I want to be in. I think that the JET program will give me many opportunities like these, so I might have a clearer picture of what I want to do in the future.

Q. What is your message/advice for job hunters?

Be sure to have many options when applying to jobs. While you should apply to the program that you think is the best fit for you, there may be times where you will not be accepted. In these instances, it is important to have positions that you can fall back on.

Congratulations to Matt on receiving the job offer from the JET program for an English teaching position in Japan next year! Your dedication and talent are truly remarkable, and your warmth and caring nature make you not only an excellent teacher but also a wonderful colleague. Anyone fortunate enough to work alongside you, or be your student, will be so lucky. Wishing you all the best on this exciting new chapter in your journey!

Yukiko Onitsuka
Jiaxin Tang, majoring in Japanese, received admission to the University of Pennsylvania. She will study computer graphics and game technology. She answered a couple of questions in this interview.

Q. Why did you choose the University of Pennsylvania?

During my search for graduate schools, I placed particular emphasis on the quality of faculty members. Over the four years at Case Western Reserve University, I deeply appreciated the relationships between students and professors at private universities. As a result, I leaned towards schools with strong faculty, regardless of the size of the program. Furthermore, considering my future plans to work in my home country, the international reputation of the school was also an important factor.
Q. What did you keep in mind during your application to graduate school?

When selecting a graduate school, I primarily considered the quality of the programs offered by the institutions. My dream is to join a game company and collaborate with like-minded individuals to develop games. Therefore, the Computer Graphics and Game Technology program at the University of Pennsylvania caught my attention. Additionally, having relatives residing in Pennsylvania presents a wonderful opportunity to spend leisure time with family.

Q. Tell us what you would like to do when you start graduate school.

As I embark on my graduate studies, I hope to explore the university's surroundings and create lasting memories. Since this may be my final year in this country, I aim to not only focus on academics but also cherish the experiences outside the classroom.

Q. What is your message/advice to students considering graduate school?

For students considering graduate school, I think it is better to thoroughly research the strengths of each program before making a decision. Avoid basing the decision solely on the reputation of the school. When preparing application materials, ensure adequate preparation, including revising and refining the personal statement and resume multiple times. Additionally, do not hesitate to seek guidance and advice from professors. The Writing Center at school is an excellent resource for all students. Also, I benefited greatly from the patience and support of my mentors throughout the application process, and I am grateful for their invaluable insights.

Congratulations on your graduation and your admission to the University of Pennsylvania, Shiro-san! I'm very happy for you that you're going to study computer graphics and game technology since I'm a big fan of your amazing illustrations and fictional stories. With your remarkable skills and creativity, I have no doubts that you will develop wonderful games in the future. Best wishes for your next chapter!

Yukie Miura
Conifer Lu, minoring in Japanese, was admitted to Johns Hopkins University. He will study Biomedical Engineering. He also answered a couple of questions in this interview.

Q. Why did you choose John Hopkins?

I choose to go to Johns Hopkins University to do my Master’s Degree in Biomedical Engineering to learn more knowledge have more research experience about Biomedical Engineering fields and prepare myself for my future career.

Q. What did you keep in mind during your application to graduate school?

I looked up rankings for programs of different universities, talked with PhD students in my fields, and learned about the research of different labs at different universities.
Q. Tell us what you would like to do when you start graduate school.

I will start looking for research labs that fit my interests, connecting with experienced people in my field to get a better insight into the whole industry, and publishing papers in journals with the result of my research.

Q. What is your message/advice to students considering graduate school?

Start early in the preparation stage and revise the statement of purpose many times until satisfied. Talk with people in your field and have a better understanding of what you want to do in the future. Apply to as many programs as possible as long as they fit your interests. Strong recommendation letters are really important so stay connected with your instructors or primary investigator in your lab.

Congratulations, Lu, on getting into one of the most prestigious universities in the world! You have taken my JAPN101-202 and Japanese Culture and Society classes and have been dedicated to studying Japanese. I am very happy to have had a thoughtful, hard-working, and diligent student like you for the past two years. I believe you will also have a valuable experience in graduate school life!

Kosuke Ogaki
Congratulations to The Recipients of the 2024 DMLL Awards

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Award for outstanding achievement

Katrina Aldana

The Emile B. DeSauze Award for attaining the highest honors in modern languages and literatures

Jiaxin Tang

The Mitzie Levine Verne & Daniel Verne Japanese Prize to an outstanding student studying in the Japanese Studies program

Wren Riley

The Japanese Prize for high achievement in Japanese

Mattew Ellerthorpe
Erika Yamazaki
Michaela Akemi
Pennebaker (橘 愛恵美)
Beatrice Wang
Lihong Zheng
Wenjin Zhang
Congratulations to the Class of 2024 Japanese Studies Majors/Minors

**Major:**
- Jiaxin Tang

**Minor:**
- Tommy Ashida
- Yumi Balthazar
- Tim Cao
- Chase He
- Daniel Kaz
- Kim Ki Su

**Joy Liao**
- Coco Liu
- Trevor McCraw
- Chen Pan
- Angela Rich
- Josephine Schelling
- Thomas Shikoh
- Zhibin Wen
- Ezra Yoneda
- Wenjin Zhang
The 2024 JASCO Speech Contest was held at the University of Cincinnati on March 23rd. One student from the CWRU Japanese Studies Program, Ms. Zili "Liz" Wang, participated as a finalist and won first place with her speech titled “Grandpa’s Liver and I.”

Since 1999, JASCO has annually organized the Ohio Japanese Speech Contest with the aim of fostering Japanese language education within Ohio. This event serves as a platform to highlight accomplishments in Japanese language learning and to share ideas and experiences that align with JASCO’s mission of uniting Ohio’s Japanese and American communities for mutual enrichment.
During the contest finals, participants presented original speeches from memory before a panel of judges and an audience. Following each speech, the judges engaged the speakers in a question-and-answer session conducted in Japanese. Recognition was given to the top two speeches in the competition, along with a special award presented in the High School Student category.

![Zili Wang delivering her speech](image)

We extend special appreciation to Yukie Miura-sensei for her invaluable assistance in guiding Zili through the process. We are also thankful for the generous monetary support from the Verne Fund and DMLL.
Japanese Speech Contest program list

Adham Atwan, University of Cincinnati.
日本語学習によって開いた新しい人生のドア - A New Door of Life Due to Learning Japanese

Ishita Dhoppavkar, Marysville Early College HS.
さくらから学ぶ - Learning Through Cherry Blossoms

Deniz Ekiçi, Dublin Jerome HS.
日本語より大事なこと - Beyond Japanese: My Experience With Languages

Tiany Guo, Dublin Jerome HS.
我儘が必要だ - Perseverance

Audrey Hess, University of Findlay.
かわいいベストフレンドから学んだこと - What I Learned From My Cute Best Friends

Ella Jewell, the Ohio State University.
自閉症と日本語 - Autism and the Japanese Language

Khang Maliran, Bowling Green State University.
平和のシンボルの記憶 - Memories of the Symbols of Peace

Alexandra McBride, the Ohio State University.
いいえ、嘘です - No, I Meant Wife

Saina Syed, Dublin Jerome High School.
私の日本語の経験 - My Japanese Experience

Zili Wang, Case Western Reserve University.
祖父の肝臓と私 - Grandpa’s Liver and I

Yemin Wong, the Ohio State University
自分から - Step it Up

Maggie Zhang, Dublin Coffman HS.
日本語を勉強する理由 - Why I Study Japanese

Welcome: Mr. Seth Josolowitz, JASCO
Executive Director

Welcome: Dr. James Mack, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Cincinnati

Remarks: Mr. Yusuke Shindo, Consul General of Japan in Detroit

Speeches [Part 1]
Intermission
Speeches [Part 2]
Announcement of Awards

Judges
Ms. Noriko Mills
President and Member of the Board of Directors of JASCO

Mr. Toshiyuki Hara
President of the Central Ohio Japanese Association of Commerce (COJAC)

Mr. Michael Waring
JET Program Alumni, Author & Entrepreneur

Sponsors
Consulate General of Japan in Detroit

David Cook
Honorary Consul General of Japan

The Ohio State University Institute for Japanese Studies
University of Cincinnati
肝臓。肝臓は私の一番好きな臓器です。肝臓が好きな理由の一つは、肝臓は臓器の3分の2を失っても、自然と修復されるからです。外科医になりたい学生の間で、好きな臓器の話をすることがよくありますが、私は「肝臓」と答えます。私が今、クリーブランドのケース大学で医者になるために生物学を勉強しているのも、肝臓がきっかけなのです。今日は、私が肝臓が好きなもう一つの理由をお話しします。

祖父の肝臓と私
- Granpa’s Liver and I-
ジーリー・ワン Zili Wang

肝臓。肝臓は私の一番好きな臓器です。肝臓が好きな理由の一つは、肝臓は臓器の3分の2を失っても、自然と修復されるからです。外科医になりたい学生の間で、好きな臓器の話をすることがよくありますが、私は「肝臓」と答えます。私が今、クリーブランドのケース大学で医者になるために生物学を勉強しているのも、肝臓がきっかけなのです。今日は、私が肝臓が好きなもう一つの理由をお話しします。

私は内モンゴルという中国北部の都市出身です。内モンゴルは、みなさんが想像するようなモンゴルの草原ではなく、大いくて賑やかな都市です。そんな内モンゴルで、私は祖父母と育ちました。忙しい母の代わりに、祖父と祖母が私の面倒を見てくれました。祖父母との生活は楽しかったですが、ある日祖父が肝臓の病気にかかりました。祖父の病気が悪化し、内モンゴルの病院では何もできませんでした。だから北京の病院に行って、精密検査を受けました。そこで、肝臓移植が必要だとわかりました。自分でも修復可能なはずの肝臓も、祖父の病気に勝てませんでした。

脾臓。脾臓は私の一番好きな臓器です。脾臓が好きな理由の一つは、脾臓は臓器の3分の2を失っても、自然と修復されるからです。外科医になりたい学生の間で、好きな臓器の話をすることがよくありますが、私は「肝臓」と答えます。私が今、クリーブランドのケース大学で医者になるために生物学を勉強しているのも、肝臓がきっかけなのです。今日は、私が肝臓が好きなもう一つの理由をお話しします。

I’m from Inner Mongolia, a city in northern China. Inner Mongolia is not the Mongolian grassland that people would imagine, but a big and lively city. In Inner Mongolia, I grew up with my grandparents because my mother was busy working and my grandparents took care of me. I had a good time with my grandparents, but one day my grandfather got a liver disease. My grandfather’s illness has worsened and there is nothing the hospital in Inner Mongolia can do. Therefore, we went to a hospital in Beijing and went through a precision examination. We found out that a liver transplant was needed. The liver as an organ that could have repaired itself could not repair my grandfather’s illness.
検査から数日後、祖父が血を吐いて入院しました。当時、まだ5歳くらいだった私は、血
まみれて、タクシーを呼びました。祖父が
緊急入院した後、祖母と一緒に願いが叶う
ことで有名なお寺に行き、「祖父が
肝臓移植を出来ますように」とお願いしました。
そのお願いのあと、奇跡的にドナーが見つかったので、移植手術が決まりました。私は、
その手術がきっかけで、人の命に関わる
医者という仕事に興味を持ちました。

祖父は手術の後、回復しました。私たちの
生活は順調でしたが、私が学校でひどい
いじめにあったので、祖父が「学校に行かな
くてもいい」と言いました。大学に来るまでホ
ームスクールで、ずっと祖父が勉強を教えて
くれました。だから、祖父は私にとって大切
な人です。

私は祖父のような病気の人を助けるため、そ
して外科医になるためにここにいます。祖父を
病気にしたのが肝臓、でも、祖父を助けてくれた
のも肝臓です。だから肝臓は私の一番好きな
臓器です。

A few days after the examination, my
grandfather vomited blood, and I
called a taxi immediately while I was
only about 5 years old and covered in
blood. After my grandfather was
hospitalized in an emergency, my
grandmother and I went to the
temple, which is famous for making
wishes come true. I said, "I wish my
grandfather could get a liver
transplant." After that, a donor was
found miraculously and the transplant
was scheduled. Taking my
grandfather's operation as an
opportunity, I became interested in
the work of a doctor who is closely
related to human life.

My grandfather recovered from the
operation. Our life went well, but
because I encountered excessive
bullying at school, my grandfather
said, "You don't have to go to school."
My grandfather taught me how to
study at home until college. Thus, my
grandfather is an important person to
me.

I am here to become a surgeon and
help people who are sick like my
grandfather. It was the liver that
made my grandfather sick, but it was
also the liver that saved him.
Therefore, the liver is my favorite
organ.
Aichi Medical University Cultural Exchange

Every year after Spring Break, students and faculty from Aichi Medical University visit our School of Nursing for about a week. This time marks their first visit in four years! The Japanese Studies Program hosted a welcome and cultural exchange party with these Japanese students on March 22. Around 30 students participated in the event and had a great time, practicing their Japanese and enjoying conversations with native Japanese speakers while also indulging in Japanese snacks and drinks.

Additionally, this year, we had five volunteer students serve as "Buddies" – good friends who helped the exchange students feel welcome and supported. It was also our hope that participants would enjoy their relationships with each other so much that they would continue to stay in contact after the program.
Kinki University Cultural Exchange

On Friday, March 29, 2024, we had a wonderful exchange meeting between Japanese students from Kinki University and CWRU students of JAPN201, JAPN202, and JAPN302. A total of 44 students participated in this meeting, and they had a cheerful and joyful conversation. The student groups played two games: "Two Lies and a Truth" and "Never Have I Ever..." in Japanese and English, respectively. The rules of the games were a little difficult to understand, but the students cooperatively helped each other to understand them and enjoyed conversations while enjoying pizza, snacks and drinks. We hope to have another cultural exchange between Japanese students and incoming Kinki University students in the fall!
Our Memories of This Semester

I took Japanese 202 this semester. I learned a lot of vocabulary and grammar in class. For example, I studied and practiced a lot of honorifics. Even though it was hard work, the teacher always helped me, so I enjoyed it. I am glad that I studied Japanese.

Daniel Albano

I enjoyed studying with my friends. I was busy with many exams and reports. The Japanese classes were very interesting and I enjoyed learning new things. Japanese grammar was a little difficult, but I did my best. I will continue to study Japanese because I want to be better at it.

Mucen Yu

I am glad I took the Japanese 202 class. It was difficult. But my favorite part of the class was doing skits with my friends. I can enjoy studying Japanese! I will definitely continue to study Japanese.

Hannah Bui
I enjoyed this semester’s classes. The teacher is interesting and kind. I think the grammar in 202 is very difficult, especially the honorifics. I was nervous during the oral exam, even though I practiced a lot. I am sure that next semester's 301 grammar will also be difficult, but I am interested in Japanese, so I will definitely do my best!

Lihong Zheng

This semester was busy, but fun. It was a little difficult. To be honest, I didn’t have much time to study Japanese this semester, so I think my performance was a bit poor, but Japanese classes are always interesting. I am glad that I studied JAPN202. Next semester I will take JAPN 301. I'm sorry I skipped class too much. And I am sorry for skipping so many classes.

Joanna Kim

This semester was very busy but fun. I made friends with students who came from Japan to study here, and I had plenty of time to practice my Japanese. Most of the time I was busy with other classes, but sometimes I found it hard to practice Japanese and do homework. I am planning to take more Japanese classes in the future. I am looking forward to next semester when I will be a fourth year student.

Kevin Ding
JAPN 101
Elementary Japanese I

Let’s learn Japanese together this fall!

Are you interested in learning Japanese? Start this upcoming fall!

Enhance your travel experience!
When you travel to Japan, you can use the phrases you learned in class to order food and ask for directions.

Enjoy Japanese pop culture even more!
You will start to understand your favorite Japanese movies, anime and music.

Attend culture events and make friends!
You will learn how to have basic everyday conversations in Japanese.

Learn about Japanese culture and more!

M/W/F + Virtual lab (Th) 4 credits
[Class Time] 9:30-10:20
10:35-11:25 11:40-12:30
2:15-3:05 3:20-4:10

Questions? Contact Kosuke Ogaki (kxo159@case.edu)
Classical Japanese Literature

Enduring Aesthetics in Poetry, Prose, Ponderings, and Plays

JPN245/WLIT245

Instructor:
Dr. Beth Carter

Semester:
FALL 2024

Class:
TuTh 10:00-11:15 AM

Poetry written by gods, erotic exchanges between ranking courtiers, lists of things lovely, war tales, exorcist theater, Buddhist musings, and love-suicide plays enacted by puppets: classical Japanese literature has something for everyone. From the most ancient myths up to the end of the premodern era (c. 1868), we will explore the relationships between art (both high and low), gender, religion, literature, and performance. This course counts as breadth and understanding global perspectives.
Invited lecture at Virginia Tech

In March, 2024, Carter sensei gave students and faculty at Virginia Tech a preview of her forthcoming article, “Salt, Seaweed, and Grief: The Power of Suma-Themed Private Poetry in the Tale of Genji”, which will be published in the 2024 issue of Japan Review. In this lecture, professor Carter offered an innovative re-reading of the “Suma” chapter in the fictional tale, Genji monogatari (Tale of Genji c. 1000). Grounded in her research on scenes of loss in premodern Japanese literature, Carter argues that Suma-themed exchanged love poems effect the sociopolitical and religious worlds of the tale. Specifically, the private love poems composed by the exiled Genji lay the groundwork for his eventual pardon. This reading also explicates a Suma-themed “proxy reply” poem written chapters later, as it facilitates spiritual growth, a sign of the religious power of private poems.

Paper presentation at the annual Association for Japanese Literary Studies Conference

In May 2024, Carter sensei presented her work on a bangai noh play that deals with the story of the Tale of Genji’s Rokujō Haven: Shikimi Tengu. For more than one thousand years, audiences have been enthralled by the fictional Rokujō Haven’s vengeful spirit exacting revenge upon the pages of the eleventh-century Genji monogatari (Tale of Genji). The success of Rokujō’s storyline suggests that readers were not disappointed in the lack of her pacification, despite being mourned according to mid-Heian standards, within the monogatari genre. However, when adapted into noh drama in the fifteenth century, the more popular...
ending for Rokujō’s character calls for her salvation. It is only in *Shikimi Tengu*, last performed in 1707 and dropped from the official list of recognized plays in 1721, that, like in the *Genji*, Rokujō’s spirit remains unappeased and audiences witness her eternal suffering. Janet Goff conjectures that this unorthodox depiction of a "mad" woman tormented by *tengu* led to difficulty classifying the play within the Edo period's (1603-1868) five-part system. In short, mixing elements from a fifth-category demon play with a fourth-category madness play could be the reason the reception of *Shikimi Tengu* faltered in later periods. In this paper, Carter investigates the socio-political and religious changes that took place in the early eighteenth century to determine why the blending of elements from these two sub-genres of plays was no longer palatable to noh enthusiasts. She suggests that shogun Tokugawa Tsunayoshi’s (d. 1709) cult of personality, coupled with his new mourning edicts, led to a distaste for storylines that did not pacify courtly aristocratic women who could return to interfere in family lines and political fates.
The Japan Foundation (JF) will hold the Japanese Film Festival Online 2024 for four weeks from June 4 to July 2, 2024, as part of the Japanese Film Festival (JFF), sharing the excitement of Japanese cinema with the world. We are pleased to announce the lineup of films and TV dramas that will be distributed during this event.

This third edition of the Japanese Film Festival Online will be held in a record-breaking 27 countries and regions, with a wide variety of films and—for the first time since it was established—two thrilling TV drama series. Titles of note include *We Made a Beautiful Bouquet*, which exploded in popularity among Gen Zers after its release in 2021, and *Baby Assassins*, the film that took Japanese social media by storm (its third installment is scheduled to be released in Japan this fall). Other highlights of the diverse lineup are *School Meals Time Graduation* and *The Zen Diary*, both of which showcase Japan’s delicious food culture, as well as the world premiere of the 4K digitally remastered version of *JUNGLE EMPEROR LEO, aka KIMBA THE WHITE LION*, a classic anime based on TEZUKA Osamu’s manga masterpiece.

For more details, please have access to

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_LyFR01bWRkycqLF_nEOroXAlcs_/view?usp=drive_link
★ Reading: 人は見かけによらぬもの
(ito wa mikake ni yoranu mono)

★ Similar Proverb:
“You cannot judge a book by its cover”

★ Vocabulary:
ひと (hito) - person

見かけ (mikake) - appearance

よらぬもの (yoranu mono) – does not depend on

★ Lines in the four-panel comics

Mother (M), Kid (K), and Police officer (P)
1. M: That is the guy who has moved next to our house.
2. K: He looks like a yakuza (Japanese gangster.)
   M: Shh. He will hear us.
3. Next day
   P: Hello, boy.
   K: Oh!
4. K: He is a police officer.

   You cannot judge a book by its cover.
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, movies, sports, etc.? Or share student activities, events, and other interesting information? Please do!

How to Submit Your Article

1. Submit an article as a Microsoft Word document!! Each article should be at least 100 words (either in Japanese or English). If you write in Japanese, please also provide the summary of your article in English.
2. Pictures for your article can be either e-mailed separately or inserted into the article.
3. Include a heading and subheading (if applicable).
4. Include your name and the course(s) in which you are/were enrolled (if applicable).
5. We are also looking for illustrations to use for the first page.
6. Send your article or illustration to Kosuke Ogaki at kxo159@case.edu by August 20, 2024.

* Your article can also be held for use in future issues.
** If your article requires excessive editing, you will be asked to rework it.
*** If you are currently taking a course in the Japanese Studies Program, you might be able to earn extra credit for the course(s) you are in! Contact your instructor for more information.

The next issue will come out in September!