

Dear JSAA Members,

This is the first newsletter from the new 2007-2009 Executive. We hope to contribute to maintaining and vitalising our community of Japanese Studies researchers and provide useful information associated with Japanese Studies. Yoroshiku onegai itashimasu!

Note, we don't have the full list of members' email addresses yet, so we are using addresses gleaned from the last conference. Please forward this newsletter to colleagues who may not have received it, and we will send an email again once we have the full list. Apologies for duplication!

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1. Welcome from the new president Prof. Kent Anderson

The sakura and ume are in bloom. Spring feels like it is nearly here.

Another new start is me writing this short column. I have never been a columnist, but I do look forward to perhaps the one forum where I can use all of my bad bilingual jokes (eg, Why can't you carry a pair of snakes? Because it's two hebi!). On second thought, perhaps success is better won by being brief.

First, a quick wrap-up on the 2007 biennial JSAA conference held at the ANU. The conference had 300 registered attendees and 227 papers making it, we think, the largest Japanese studies conference in Australia and one of the largest ever outside Japan. The organising committee is finalising its accounting but expects it will be able to return the JSAA seed funding and a nearly matching amount. Thank you to the organisers, volunteers, and all of the attendees. Also, particular thanks to the sponsors: Japan Foundation, Japanese Embassy, Australia-Japan Foundation, and the ANU. University of Sydney and UNSW will co-host the 2009 conference and we wish them the best of luck.

Closely related to the biennial conference, Australia and Japan celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Australia-Japan Commerce Agreement in July. JSAA Conference attendees were invited to the anniversary dinner where Prime Minister John Howard gave a speech very supportive of the relationship which was returned in a statement from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe read by Ambassador Hideaki Ueda. Bob McMullan MP provided a toast on behalf of the Opposition Leader and Riley Lee gave a fantastic shakuhachi performance.

Congratulations to Royall Tyler who won the 2007 Japan Foundation Award. Royall is formerly Head and now Visiting Fellow of the ANU Japan Centre. He is well known for his translation of Tale of Genji and his work on noh plays, among other areas. In winning this prize, Royall joins people such as Akira Kurosawa, Hayao Miyazaki, Edwin O Reischauer, Ezra Vogel, Donald Keene, Eleanor Jordan, and Seiji Ozawa. The only other Australian to win the prize is Sir John Crawford in 1984.

With funding from the Australia-Japan Foundation, the JSAA board is exploring ways to cooperate with the Australian Studies Association of Japan. In pursuing this, we hope to have a mini-symposium in Tokyo on the role of area studies in the two countries around 27 October. Please email me (kent.anderson@anu.edu.au) if you will be in Tokyo or are interested in participating.

One of the present projects for the board is a membership drive. We are presently transferring files, but hopefully we will get reminders out to you and your colleagues later in 2007. We are also exploring with Asian Studies Association of Australia ways that we can cooperate in membership recruitment and renewal, including on-line registration.

JSAA Treasurer Michelle Hall has done a fantastic job updating the JSAA website. Please have a look at <http://jsaa.info/>. Michelle would welcome any suggestions and announcements for inclusion. Just email her at hall@unimelb.edu.au.

Finally, I want to invite you to help us make the JSAA more relevant for you. Please send us any suggestions you have about what JSAA might be able to do for you.

Best regards.

Kent

2. Reminder: Post-graduate conference presentation/essay prize
The deadline is approaching (10 September 2007). We encourage all post-grads who presented at the JSAA conference this year to consider entering the competition.

Post-graduates who presented at the JSAA 2007 conference and who are members of the JSAA are encouraged to enter the Association's 2007 post-graduate essay competition award.

There will be a \$500 prize for best paper initially presented at the 2007 JSAA conference by a postgrad student and then developed into a paper that can be considered for publication in the Association's journal, subject to the usual review processes. The following conditions apply:

1. Papers will be written in English.
2. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a university postgraduate degree
3. Papers can be nominated by another academic, or the candidate may self-nominate A polished version of the paper should be sent to Alison Tokita (alison.tokita@arts.monash.edu.au) or Barbara Hartley (Barbara.Hartley@utas.edu.au) by Monday 10th September.

Criteria are:

Original and scholarly content

Logical and fluent argument

Familiarity with literature in the field Publication standard level of presentation.

Judging will be by members of the Executive or their representatives.

3. New postgraduate representative

Our new postgraduate representative is Joel Rathus from Adelaide University. Congratulations Joel!

4. Membership reminder

The secretary and treasurer are now trying to put together latest membership information. If you haven't renewed your membership, now is the time! The home page has a link to a new membership form. Please also note that the minutes of last AGM at JSAA conference is now on our website.

Now the membership form needs to be sent to Treasurer Michelle Hall (address on the form). We also strongly encourage you to invite your colleagues to join JSAA. The membership goes from July to June, but even if you join later in the year you will be able to receive back issues of the journal.

5. Call for papers

- SYNLAB Workshop 2007: Language & Culture Workshop Theme: Media, Cultures and Social Networks

Camperdown Campus of The University of Sydney 6th – 7th December 2007

Sponsor: The School of Languages and Cultures, The University of Sydney.

SYNLAC Workshop 2007 is calling for presentations that address the theme of Media, Cultures and Social Networks.

The ultimate purpose of SYNLAB Workshop is to foster interaction between linguistics and cultural studies. Through the workshop we encourage participants in the workshop to expand their intellectual and academic horizons and create a truly interdisciplinary atmosphere. There is a plan to produce a refereed publication based on the presentations featured in the workshop. The closing date of abstract submission is 28th (Friday) September 2007.

Registration is free; there is a \$15 charge to cover morning and afternoon refreshments.

For details, go to: <http://homepage.mac.com/msasaki/synlac/index.html>

- 7th International Conference on Japanese Language Education
Pusan University of Foreign Studies, Busan, Korea
11th- 13th July 2008

Theme (tentative): Towards the expansion of Japanese Studies and Japanese Language Education network Details will be announced in due course.

6. Grants, Scholarships and Awards

- Japan Studies Grants at the National Library of Australia

National Library of Australia is announcing a new study grant. This grant is open to wide range of researchers, who reside in Australia; from honours or postgraduate students to academic staff and independent researchers.

Please see <http://www.nla.gov.au/grants/jsg/> for details and application form.

The closing date for the application is September 30, but some late applications might be accepted. Please contact Ms Amelia McKenzie, Director of the Asian Collections, for further enquiries.

- JG Crawford Award

The JG Crawford Award is awarded annually for a research paper on the Japanese economy or economic policy, or Japan's international relations or relations with Australia, or the political environment affecting these issues. For details please see the following link:

http://www.crawford.anu.edu.au/research_units/ajrc/jgcrawford_award.php

The deadline for receiving papers is 30 September 2007.

- The 2008 Japanese Studies Graduate Summer School – Applications for Scholarships now open

The 2008 Japanese Graduate Studies Summer School will be held at the Australian National University from 29 January to 1 February. The event provides a wonderful opportunity for graduate students from universities around the Asia-Pacific region to present their work in a friendly and professional environment, and to develop and international and inter-disciplinary network. This year, the opportunity is also open to Honours students planning to proceed to postgraduate study to take part in the workshop without giving a paper presentation. The School,

which forms part of the ANU's Asia Pacific Week, will feature guest lectures by prominent Australian and international Japanese Studies scholars.

Applications for scholarships to attend the workshop are now open.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS is 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 For further details, please see the Summer School website:

<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/asiapacificweek/japan.php>

or contact Dr. Hitoshi Nasu, Convenor JSGSS, on NasuH@law.anu.edu.au

Thanks for reading such an epic! Please contact the Secretary, Ikuko Nakane, with anything you'd like included in future newsletters. Also check the www.jsaa.info for announcements, membership form, and other JSAA-related information.

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