

JSAA e-newsletter - Late April 2008

Members, there are a couple of urgent items for which responses are required in the next few days. We apologise for the short lead time, but hope that you can provide your input. Also, many attachments were included with some items, so for these details please see the JSAA website at www.jsaa.info

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1. URGENT: Japanese Embassy seeks input in promoting Japanese language and studies - by 30 April

Dear members of the JSAA community,

We are presented with an important opportunity to provide input to the newly proposed National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP)

through the Embassy of Japan. (Please see the email From the Embassy of Japan below.) [It is reproduced on the JSAA website, under Announcements –ed]

As a member of the JSAA Executive, I would like to call for your ideas for this input so that I can compile a letter to the Embassy. I foresee that a modified version of the letter can be sent directly to the Australian Government as well.

My intention is to frame the letter from the tertiary perspective, which is the receiving end of school leavers. I would also like to take a national approach rather than the state specific approach.

I welcome all your comments, not only the idea itself, but also on how we want to approach this opportunity.

I would like to hear from many you by Wednesday April 30th. Please write directly to my email address [c.thomson@unsw.edu.au] with a subject heading [Embassy input].

Thank you and best regards,

Chihiro Thomson

2. Call on members for nomination to ASAJ conference - by 2 May

The JSAA has received a grant from the Australia Japan Foundation to establish and consolidate links between the JSAA and the Australian Studies Association of Japan (ASAJ). Using some of this funding, the JSAA Executive Committee would like to send up to three members to attend the ASAJ conference to be held at Otomon Gakuin University in Ibaraki City (Osaka), June 7 to 8, 2008.

The draft conference program includes David Carter's keynote speech on the Apology, and panels on Indigenous Australians and sport, Anzac Day, multiculturalism, security and economics.

The JSAA delegates would be expected to attend both days of the conference, participate in discussions of papers, and to mingle proactively with the ASAJ delegates at the reception etc. They would then be expected to write a report on their participation for the JSAA Executive.

If you would like to be considered for this task, please email Kent Anderson stating your reasons for wishing to participate in the conference, how you think your participation will benefit the JSAA, and a simple budget for anticipated expenses.

Kent would like to receive expressions by Friday May 2nd.
(andersonk@law.anu.edu.au)

3. Call for nominations for essay prizes:

a. 2008 J.G. Crawford Award

The J.G. Crawford Award will be presented in 2008 to the author of a research paper seen by the Selection Panel as making a substantial and original contribution to scholarship on Japan or on Australia-Japan relations. To be eligible for consideration the paper should address some aspect of the operation of the Japanese economy or economic policy, or Japan's international relations or relations with Australia, or the political environment affecting these affairs. The value of the Award is determined each year by a judging panel and in recent years has been A\$2,500.

Further details are available on the JSAA website (www.jsaa.info) on the Announcements page.

b. Chino Kaori Memorial Essay Prize, 2008

We are pleased to announce the sixth annual Chino Kaori Memorial Essay Prize. The University of Hawai'i Press is graciously sponsoring this prize with a gift of 400 dollars in books from their catalogue that will be awarded to the prize recipient. The prize is administered by the Japan Art History Forum (JAHF), which will also award the winner a complimentary two-year JAHF membership.

See www.jass.info Announcements page for more details.

4. JSAA housekeeping:

a. Online membership payment - joint JSAA/ASAA membership and 10% discount

The JSAA and ASAA executive committees are delighted to announce the implementation of a joint online membership payment system. Due to the administration savings through online subscription, JSAA is pleased to also announce a 10% savings when renewal is made through the online program. We regret to note that the discount policy is only prospectively applied for those people who renew through the online system. Thus, we will not be offering retrospective discounts to people who have just renewed through alternative means. Discussions are still underway for a JSAA-only option for online payments. We will keep you informed. See the ASAA website for more: <http://asaa.asn.au/>

b. JSAA AGM at the ASAA in Melbourne, July 1-3.

The 2008 JSAA AGM will be held on Tuesday 1st July as part of the ASAA conference to be held at the The Sebel Albert Park Hotel, 65 Queens Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004 Ph: + 61 3 9529 4300 (room to be confirmed). Members with agenda items should contact Dr Ikuko Nakane (inakane@unimelb.edu.au) as soon as possible. The agenda will be circulated before the meeting.

5. Job opportunity at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken)

The International Research Center for Japanese Studies, an inter-university research institute and one of five constituent units of the National Institutes for the Humanities of Japan, seeks to hire a Project Research Assistant in its Office of Research Exchange, which is responsible for building and maintaining networks of individual scholars overseas and in Japan, encouraging exchange of ideas and research findings, providing information that can be used in research on Japan, and devising and executing plans for scholarly conferences co-organized with institutions overseas.

Information about the position can be found on the JSAA website (www.jsaa.info) on the Professional Positions page.

6. Conferences:

a. European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists conference 16-19 September, 2008 in Lisbon

Please see further details at <http://japanesestudies.arts.kuleuven.be/eajrs/>

b. Women in Asia Conference to be held at the University of Queensland in late September – closing date 20th May

c. AULLA (The Australasian Universities Language and Literature Association) conference will be held in Sydney in February 2009.

For further information on all of these conferences, see the Conferences page at www.jsaa.info

7. New appointments:

Rebecca Suter has been appointed a Lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Sydney. Rebecca is a specialist in modern and comparative Japanese literature and popular culture.

Lionel Babicz will take up an appointment as a Lecturer in Japanese Studies at the University of Sydney in July. Lionel's field is modern Japanese history with a specialization in Japan-Korea relations.

8. Monbukagakusho Scholarships

The Japanese Government is offering scholarships to Australian citizens for study in Japan beginning in 2009 in both undergraduate and research categories. See the Announcements page at www.jsaa.info for more details.