

JSAA Newsletter August 2009

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1. Greetings from outgoing and incoming presidents

Outgoing President's Farewell - Kent Anderson

As outgoing president of JSAA, I've been asked to write a few words. First, let me thank a number of people. The JSAA executive has been a fantastic group of dedicated and interested colleagues with whom to work. I particularly appreciated getting a variety of regional and institutional views on issues. Michelle Hall and Ikuko Nakane have been amazing in holding much of the day-to-day operation together. Second, sincere thanks to Elise Tipton and Chihiro Thomson and their teams at USydney and UNSW for putting on a wonderful 2009 conference. The logistical challenges of hosting a major conference such as this have to be experienced to be appreciated. Finally, my deepest personal thanks to all of the JSAA members for their continued passion and dedication to the field. It is through you that the organisation remains robust and the prospects for Japanese studies strong.

I strongly believe in the prospects for Japanese studies in Australia, and the broader Australasian region, at this stage. I assert we have moved beyond the 'Old marriage' cliché, to a period of 'Normalisation' and all of the benefits that attach to being a mainstream discipline. Just as English, French, or Maths is studied, our students pursue Japanese language and studies. The benefit of being mainstream is that we do not need to fight for survival like many of our closely related fields. The challenge is to continue to remind our constituencies—students, parents, employers, governments, and communities—that we are relevant to Australia's future. The data overwhelmingly supports us in this regard. Japan remains convincingly the largest export market of Australia; more students study Japanese than any other language; the exchanges within government, business, and security are among the most developed and substantial; and the grassroots interaction—whether it be Aussie skiers in Hokkaido or Japanese working holidayers on the Gold Coast—have resulted in a largely unseen strata of supporters of the Australia-Japan relationship. We also face a specific challenge of many mainstream subjects that expertise in the area is taken for granted. To ensure continued mainstream relevance, investment in the next generation of Japanese studies leaders needs to be made. This is where I seek a call to action for members and the association. Our legacy and the dividends of being mainstream needs to be reinvested in producing the next generation of teachers, researchers, and leaders.

Finally, my Œeyoroshiku onegai itashimasu' to Chihiro and the 2009-2011 Executive Board. I know you will see us through another productive two years.

Welcome by Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson (new president 2009-2011)

Dear colleagues,

Thank you all for coming to Sydney for the JSAA-ICJLE2009 conference. I was glad to see so many of you here and I am relieved now that it is over. Due to its combined nature, the conference attracted about 600 participants, many from Japan. It acted as a membership drive and I hope many who signed up along with the conference registration will stay with us for many years to come.

At the conference AGM, I was elected the new president of JSAA. (Colleagues persuaded me that it would be easier than convening the conference!) As the first order of business as the new president, I would like to express my appreciation to Professor Kent Anderson, who was an active and visible president of JSAA between 2007-2009. Kent has been concerned not only about issues related to Law (he is a Professor of Law), but wider Japanese studies and language issues at the national level. His voice was heard by many in different communities. Thank you Kent for your effort and presence. I am happy that Kent will remain active in the coming two years as an ex-officio member of the executive, and guide me through the presidency.

I am pleased to inform those of you who were not present at the conference dinner that Professor Hugh Clarke, formerly of the University of Sydney, currently with Waseda, was given an honorary life time membership of JSAA. I am thrilled that Hugh received this honour. He was an excellent neighbour to us at UNSW during his years at USYD. Due to his effort, the collaborative relationship between USYD and UNSW that we enjoy now has developed. He has been supportive of my own career for many years as well. Congratulations, Hugh, for the well-deserved honour!

In the coming years, JSAA members face challenges of changing populations of students in our disciplines and of learners of Japanese, and JSAA will be involved in increasingly more complex and intertwined multilateral relationships. For the former, at the national level, JSAA as a national organisation might have to voice our views on the national language curriculum, especially on heritage learners, and to the institutional level, JSAA as an academic support organisation might need to strategise support for postgrad, honours, and specific needs of our future generations. For the latter, following the examples of our colleagues in Korean and Chinese Studies, JSAA may expand its relationship beyond Australian border and may consider a transformation to the Japanese Studies Association of Australasia.

Please let me hear your views on these issues as well as other concerns of our disciplines. I look forward to working along side you, and happy teaching in the second semester to all.

2. New executive committee

President: Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson (UNSW)

Secretary: Ikuko Nakane (Melbourne)

Treasurer: Michelle Hall (Melbourne)

Non-office bearing executives:

Olivier Ansart (Sydney)

Robyn Spence-Brown (Monash)

Carol Hayes (ANU)

Narrelle Morris (Melbourne)

Journal Editor: Judith Snodgrass (UWS)

Postgrad student representative: Sarah Pasfield-Neofitou (Monash)

3. Conferences

1) CAJLE Conference 2009

The CAJLE Conference 2009 aims to bring instructors of Japanese at all levels together, to strengthen Japanese language curriculum and to enhance language learning results. Parallel paper presentations, workshops, a panel discussion and a showcase & sale of Japanese teaching materials by Nihongo Circle are scheduled. For more information, please visit http://cajle.info/annual_conference For inquiries, please email to: jotaro.arimori@utoronto.ca

2) TUFs Interpreting Symposium: Interpreter Education and Training at the Graduate and Undergraduate University Level in the World - October 11, 2009

The meeting will gather scholars and experts in interpretation studies, as well as the training of interpreters. At the final year of the three-year project, we will be inviting speakers from major countries around the globe to talk about perspectives on developing materials for interpreter training and incorporating hands-on experience in the classroom.

We will invite universities affiliated with TUFs that have interpreting programs to share their ideas and experiences on training interpreters at each institution. We would be interested in how each and every one of the participating schools develop teaching materials and how they hold practicums in order to better train and prepare students for the real world in an academic environment. The presentations given by representatives of each institution will be followed by a panel discussion to explore ways to cultivate professional interpreters in universities.

For further information, please go to:

<http://tsuuyakusummit.blog79.fc2.com> <<http://tsuuyakusummit.blog79.fc2.com>>
or contact tufs@kytrade.co.jp <<mailto:tufs@kytrade.co.jp>> .

3) Postgrad workshop at Adelaide

PROFESSOR STOCKWIN TO CHAIR JAPAN WORKSHOP for PhD/ECRs

Professor JAA Stockwin, University of Oxford, will chair and facilitate a workshop on Japan for postgraduates and early career researchers (ECRs) at the University of Adelaide on 23-24 November 2009. Organised by the Japan-Korea node of the Asia Pacific Futures Research Network in conjunction with its network project titled

‘Japan: Descending Asian Giant?’, the workshop will feature 10 to 15 speakers from Australia, Asia, Europe and the United States discussing aspects of contemporary

Japanese economy, politics, society, demography and international relations.

PhD candidates and ECRs researching contemporary Japan are invited to apply for a fully funded place (airfare and accommodation in Adelaide) at the workshop. Ten to 10 PhD students/ECRs from interstate are likely to be selected. Applications close on Friday, 14 August 2009. Applicants

should provide a brief curriculum vitae, a supporting letter from their supervisor, current research and future plan (1/2 page) and a statement of workshop expectations (1/2page). Applications to: Professor Purnendra Jain. Purnendra JAIN, Professor
Centre for Asian Studies, Adelaide University, AUSTRALIA 5005
Ph : +61 8 8303 4688 Fax : +61 8 8303 4388 e-mail:
purnendra.jain@adelaide.edu.au

4 Funding opportunities 2009-2010 Japan Foundation Sydney Local Grant Program

In the current 2009-2010 fiscal year, The Japan Foundation Sydney office is able to offer a limited number of local grants in support of projects in the field of Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange.

The two available grants are:

- 1) Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Local Grant Supports projects such as conferences, lectures and presentations conducted by non-profit organisations (individuals are not eligible to apply).
- 2) Travel Support Grant Provides funds for researchers to travel to Japan in order to further their Japanese studies-related projects.

The application period is open throughout the 2009-2010 fiscal year, but applications must be received by the Japan Foundation, Sydney office at least 2 months prior to the project start date.

For full details and eligibility criteria please visit
http://www.jpf.org.au/07_grants/otherfunding.htm
<http://www.jpf.org.au/07_grants/otherfunding.htm>

Or contact the Program Coordinator, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Department on 02 8239 0055 or jsgrants@jpf.org.au
<<mailto:jsgrants@jpf.org.au>>

5 Positions

1) ANU

Teaching Fellow in Japanese Studies (part-time)
ANU Faculty of Asian Studies is currently advertising two positions that may be relevant to a Japanese studies person. First, is a 3 year Teaching Fellow in Japanese which is a combination Level A appointment and a PhD scholarship. Closing date: 31 August 2009

The details are at <http://jobs.anu.edu.au/Positions.aspx?rg=1&pt=1>

2) University of Melbourne

Professor of Asian Studies, Asia Institute, University of Melbourne
(Continuing)

Closing date: 31 August 2009

The successful candidate will have expertise in a relevant area of Asian Studies, outstanding research output and demonstrated leadership skills and experience. The Professor of Asian Studies will be expected to make major contributions in the areas of research, academic leadership and professional development, teaching excellence at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and to contribute to the leadership and overall governance of the Asia

Institute. In addition, the incumbent will have a central role in promoting curriculum reform in line with the Melbourne Model which includes a strong

focus on postgraduate study. In particular, the Professor of Asian Studies will assist the Institute to maintain and strengthen its role in promoting the study of Asia throughout the University, and with collaborative centres in other Universities and with other external parties. For further information, please go to: [http:// www.jobs.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.jobs.unimelb.edu.au) <<http://www.jobs.unimelb.edu.au>>

5 Obituary (Dr Richard Mason 1934-2009)

JSAA members may not be aware that Richard Mason died on Saturday 27 June. He is survived by his wife Rose, children Katharine, Philip and Bridget, and their families.

Richard studied at Cambridge University, then obtained his PhD from the Australian National University, where he lectured on Japanese history for more than 30 years in the Faculty of Asian Studies. His publications include "Japan's first general election", and "A history of Japan" which he wrote with Dr John Caiger. Richard will be remembered fondly by his colleagues, students and other friends.