



### American Embassy Visit and Imperial Audience

On July 23, 2018, Jennifer Yoo (2017-2018) and Masaki Eguchi (2018-2020) had the honor of meeting with Mr. Joseph Young, Deputy Chief of Mission, at the American Embassy in Tokyo.



(L-R) Jennifer, Mr. Young, Mr. Hamamoto, and Masaki.

They then had lunch at the Keidanren where they were briefed about the main event for the day, the Imperial Audience with Their Majesties. The following is an excerpt written by Masaki regarding his experience conversing with Their Majesties on that memorable day.

*Visiting the Imperial Palace to meet with Their Majesties was the most precious moment I have ever experienced in my life. The Audience as a Crown Prince Akihito Scholar is highly distinct from most other possible visits with Their Majesties. While one can register for a visit of the General Public for New Year Greetings or His Majesty's Birthday, a very limited number of individuals, including Ambassadors, are allowed to exchange their research interests and ideas in such depth with Their Majesties.*

*As a new University of Hawaii student pursuing a doctoral degree in Second Language Studies, I was very blessed as well as honored to be warmly welcomed by and allowed to share my research on second or foreign language education with the Emperor and the Empress.*

*The Audience indeed became a special occasion for me. I found myself being very nervous, thinking about the setting I was in. Although I had heard from Mr. Hamamoto—CPASF*

*Trustee, who led us to the reception room, that their Majesties have incredibly nice personalities, the fact*

*that I was going to meet and talk with the Emperor and the Empress did not allow me to be relaxed.*

*Contrary to the nervous mood that I had been in, I felt that time passed very quickly during the Audience. As I reflect, it may not be just because I felt as if I was in a dream, but it must be because I was able to enjoy the conversation with Their Majesties. Towards the end of the Audience, Their Majesties kindly wished our success with their heartfelt words.*

*Through this event, I was able to re-consider what it takes to be a doctorate student in the field of foreign language education.*

*Jennifer writes, It almost goes without saying that being a Crown Prince Akihito Scholar grants invaluable opportunities, not the least of which is the honor of the Imperial Audience with Their Majesties. Needless to*

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### Chairman's Message

This year's unfortunate rash of natural disasters- hurricanes/typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires, flooding, and droughts reinforce how our lives are interconnected beyond national or state boundaries. Sadly, there also continues to be numerous man-made tragedies that also have wide spread impact. While many recognize the benefit of working together as a community to help those impacted recover from disasters and of building productive relationships to reduce the potential for avoidable catastrophes, there is still much to be accomplished as well as continuous efforts to maintain what has been achieved.

The Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation was started to commemorate Emperor Akihito's wedding and to help solidify the relationship between two major world powers, allies, who were at one time on opposing sides. It is important to continually work on maintaining and strengthening relationships and understanding between countries and people around the world so that we can constructively address the never-ending challenges we face.

Thank you for all you have done to help work towards this ambitious goal.

Allen B. Uyeda

### Distinguished Service Award for Former CPASF Scholar



**Stephen Covell** (1992-1993), Chair of the Department of Comparative Religion at Western Michigan University (WMU) received a Distinguished Service Award from his university. This award for demonstrated exceptional service in areas that reflect innovative and effective programming increased WMU's stature or extended WMU's impact and presence in the

larger community. He received a plaque and a \$2,000 honorarium for his achievements.

**Dr. Covell** helped to organize international seminars, conferences, and workshops focusing on global issues for faculty and students. A colleague wrote, "When it comes to service to the third pillar of WMU's mission, global engagement, **Dr. Covell** has set a standard that few others could meet." He was also praised for his willingness to



share his knowledge with his students and encourage them to expand their understanding and appreciation of different religions other than their own.

Source: WMU News; <https://wmich.edu/news/2018/09/48801>

## Awards Ceremony at the Japanese Consulate

The Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation (CPASF) held a ceremony on July 27, 2018 at the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu to present scholarship awards to **Mr. Yoshiro Sakamoto** and **Mr. Robert Oda**. **Mr. Allen Uyeda**, CPASF Chairman, made the presentation on behalf of the CPASF board.



(L-R) 1st Row: Deputy Consul General Takayuki Shinozawa; Yoshiro Sakamoto; Robert Oda; and Allen Uyeda. 2nd Row: Trustee Steve Sombrero; Vice Consul Yuko Miyazaki; Trustee Bob Huey; CPASF President Reyna Kaneko; Trustee Jean Rolles; Center for Japanese Studies Director Lonny Carlile; and UH Foundation Director of Scholarship Development Malia Peters.

**Mr. Yoshiro Sakamoto** received an MA degree from the Tokyo University of Foreign

Studies and is a PhD Candidate in Literature and Cultural Studies at the same university. His dissertation research is regarding the life and literature of Mr. Stefan Baciu, a prominent poet and literary promoter of post-war literature in Hawaii. Mr. Baciu was a professor of Latin American literature at the University of Hawaii—Manoa and resided in Honolulu for about 25 years until his death in January 1993. **Yoshiro** has participated in exchange programs in Switzerland and Romania where he gathered research material, conducted interviews, etc. concerning Mr. Baciu. He will focus on the significance of the poet’s literary works and activity in the 20th century during his stay at UHM as a visiting researcher.

**Mr. Robert Oda** received his BS degree in physics and computer science from McGill University in Canada. Currently, he is a PhD candidate in the Molecular Biosciences and Bioengineering department at UH Manoa. He conducts his research at the John A. Burns School of Medicine under the guidance of Dr. Bruce Shiramizu. He will be studying Raman Spectroscopy at the University of Tokyo with Dr. Yasuyuki Ozeki. **Robert’s** current research interests are in using Raman Spectroscopy to determine chemical differences in cancerous cells and tissue.

Mahalo to Consul General Ito and Mrs. Ito for hosting our event at their home.

## 2018 CPASF Travel Award



**ELIGIBILITY:** Current or past CPASF recipient who is still in a UH Manoa graduate program. Funding of up to \$1,000 for students who have been accepted as an active participant in an academic conference. Active participation includes presenting a paper or part of a roundtable, poster presentation. This award is available ONCE during a student’s UH career. Application can be made AFTER the conference was held within the academic year.

**CRITERIA:** Status of conference relevant to student’s field. Role in the conference. E.g. if the student is not only a paper presenter, but also organized the panel, then that applicant receives preference.

**APPLY:** Please contact Marsha Yokomichi, CPASF Vice President, at [myokomichi@jshawaii.org](mailto:myokomichi@jshawaii.org) or ph. (808) 524-4450 for more information or to request an application. **Deadline to apply: 12/1/18.**

## Hiroshima Peace Scholars Program

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported that **Naomi Hirano-Omizo** (1975-1976) co-authored the Japanese language textbook, “Adventures in Japanese” along with Hiromi Peterson (another Punahou school teacher). Through the royalties from the sale of their textbook, they have funded the Hiroshima Peace Scholars Program which has been providing annual trips to Hiroshima for the past 10 years.



This year, two students from Punahou School and Farrington High School traveled to Japan for the August 6, 1945 anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima. The Hawaii students met with Japan students at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial to promote peace and commemorate the anniversary of the bombing.

## In Memoriam



**Dr. Margaret Oda**, CPASF Trustee, passed away on April 15, 2018 after a brief illness. She received her Master’s degree in Mathematics at Michigan State University and her Doctor of Education degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. **Dr. Oda** was a CPASF Trustee for 25 years from 1993 to April 15, 2018. She also served on the Japan-America Society of Hawaii’s Board of Directors from 2001 to 2016 and served as it’s Chair in 2003.

Source: Star-Advertiser Obituary for Margaret Oda.

**Dr. Patricia Masters** (1988-1989) passed away on June 15, 2018. She earned her Master’s degree in Asian Religions from UCLA and a PhD in Political Theory and Philosophy from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Masters taught Buddhist Studies in India and Japan for 20 years. She was ordained as a Buddhist nun in India in Bodhi Gaya in the Burmese tradition. She also created a Buddhist Studies program in Kyoto, Japan. Source: Nuuanu Memorial Obituary for Patricia Masters.





**James Jack** (2008-2010) writes, *in the midst of the summer heat in the mountains of Yame, I held the artist workshop "Migrating Stories" and connected organic farmers in Java and Kyushu as part of the Art & Agriculture Program organized by Social Art Lab in August 2018. I was kindly hosted by old friend Fuad bin Osman for an artist talk on "Pathways by Land and Sea" at A+ Works of Art in Kuala Lumpur followed by passionate discussions on the direction of art and writing in the new political climate of Malaysia. An intimate screening of "Sea Birth" parts one and two was held in Naha in July 2018 for all those that have been involved in the work over the past two years at BARRACK Art Space along with commentary by archaeologist Chiaki Katagiri afterwards on the most recent discoveries made related to the shipwreck where this artwork started. Upon completion of Sea Birth 3 the world premiere of all three parts shown together as part of the eccentric event "Pelagic Empires" to be held in Singapore in January 2019.*

Source: James Jack Studio News, 9/4/18

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*say as the day approached, I grew particularly nervous over both my Japanese language abilities and making some mistake in etiquette or the like. These feelings only grew as our meeting date drew closer. When I met with Their Majesties, however, I was immediately struck by their warm welcome. The room was quiet and pleasantly lit with sunlight.*

*Their Majesties were both soft-spoken, very kind and sincere. I was humbled by their compliments on my language ability. What left the strongest impression on me, however, was the genuine interest Their Majesties expressed in my research. Such undivided attention and lack of judgement is not a regular experience for me, and it was truly a gift.*

## 2019-2020 Scholarship Applications Now Available

We're now accepting applications from American scholars who are interested in applying for the 2019-2020 scholarship year. The award covers one-year of study in Japan with an option to apply for a additional year. The total value of the award is \$45,000 which includes a \$30,000 scholarship award and a \$15,000 annual allowance. **Deadline to apply: November 2, 2018**

The scholarship is open to American graduate students at UH Manoa pursuing study in a subject area leading to better understanding

between Japan and the U.S.

All applicants must either appear before a Screening Committee in person or on Skype if they are not in Honolulu on **November 26, 2018**.

Finalists must either appear before the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees in person or on Skype if they are not in Honolulu on **December 13, 2018**.

Applications are available on-line at [www.cpasfoundation.org](http://www.cpasfoundation.org).

**Yukie Michelle Lloyd** (2011-2013) was in Cameroon again for the third time from June



Yukie pictured fourth from right with friends from Cameroon.

to July 2018. She defended her PhD dissertation in August and will be at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for the fall semester working on three more publications as well as refining her dissertation. Since last year, she has published three first-authored publications and presented her findings at many conferences around the world. **Yukie** is currently exploring options for post-PhD but she says it is likely she will be involved in field research in Cameroon, where her heart belongs.

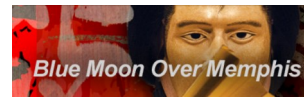


**John Oglevee** (2009-2011) is in Tokyo finishing his dissertation. Together with his company, Theatre Nohgaku, they recently co-sponsored Noh workshops for

non-Japanese speakers in Tokyo with the Kita School of Noh in Meguro.



Next, **John** will be performing as Elvis Presley in Theatre Nohgaku's English language Noh performance of "Blue Moon Over Memphis" at the



University of Michigan and UCLA

in October 2018. He will also be hosting workshops at both of these universities as well as at UC Santa Barbara. In late October 2018, he will be traveling to Munich, Germany with performer Matsui Akira to assist him in a performance of both classical Noh and contemporary theater.

**Pamela Runestad** (2008-2009) is currently an Assistant Professor of Global Health Studies at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. She works in an interdisciplinary



department and was hired as the Medical

Anthropologist. She was previously at Creighton University for three years until spring 2018. **Pamela** has a book contract for her work on HIV in Japan with Rutgers which is due out in 2019.

Photo Source: <https://sites.allegheny.edu/globalhealth/pamela-runestad/>

The CPASF *Scholar Update* is published on a quarterly basis. Please email updates and photos to [myokomichi@jashawaii.org](mailto:myokomichi@jashawaii.org) for possible inclusion in a future edition.

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