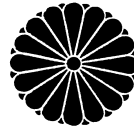


# Scholar Update

Featuring our current and past scholars



Crown Prince Akihito  
Scholarship Foundation

Spring 2019 Edition

## Scholar Headed to Vocab@Leuven in Belgium

## Chairman's Message

**Masaki Eguchi** (2018-2020) writes, six months have passed since I started my PhD study as a Crown Prince Akihito scholar and I feel very fortunate. I am grateful for the opportunities that the CPASF has offered me. The last two months have been especially academically and culturally rich as I made important progress in my academic work while enjoying my private life on this island.

As far as academic work goes, I would like to mention three recent updates. My academic advisor, Professor Kristopher Kyle, and I co-authored an article for a peer-reviewed journal and received positive feedback. As the first author of this paper, I revised the paper and resubmitted it to the journal in January 2019. Since this is the second venue for us—the paper was not accepted in another journal—I hope this version will be accepted for future publication sometime during this semester.

Also, in early February 2019, two projects have been accepted for a conference. This conference, entitled Vocab@Leuven 2019, is going to take place at KU Leuven University in Belgium this July, and it specifically focuses on issues related to second/foreign vocabulary learning and teaching. This particular series of conferences has been gaining popularity in the field, as the importance of the scientific approaches on teaching vocabulary in foreign language have been recognized. I am particularly delighted to be accepted to this series as it reminds me of my first ever conference presentation at the Vocab@Tokyo 2016 conference. This time, I look forward to visiting a beautiful country in Europe, Belgium, for the first time in my life.

Recently also, my adviser and I have been invited to contribute a chapter to a book on foreign language vocabulary development and assessment. Our chapter specifically focuses on the way researchers and teachers can assess students' knowledge of collocations (associations) through the use of automated computer software. In order to



Masaki, on far left, relaxing with his friends.

reduce work loads for language teachers, researchers have recently become interested in assisting the process of essay grading partially by way of automatic tools. The chapter attempts to address both potentials and concerns of employing such automatic assessment in measuring "proficient" collocation use.

All the academic progress mentioned above would have not been possible without the CPASF. If I had to work 20 hours a week as my peer students currently do, I would not be able to enjoy the process as much. I greatly appreciate this luxury through the CPAS during my Ph.D. program.

The past two months was also full of culturally-rich experiences. The most memorable was a Hula concert held in early February which one of my university friends invited me to. It was the first time for me to see a variety of styles of Hula from traditional to modern. Particularly, I like the more traditional versions of Hula as I feel it maintains some important elements of original Hula. This is just one of the memorable events I have experienced. However, I am also content with daily life as I learn from multiple cultural contacts through talking to friends from different regions of the world.

"Promoting understanding between people, cultures and nations through education."

A hint of the myriad ways CPASF scholars work to achieve this goal is seen in this newsletter's articles. Eimi and I got a first-hand look at one approach when we had the opportunity to visit with **Sakiko Yasuda** (2013-2015) and her family in the Solomon Islands in March 2019. **Sakiko**, Ph. D. in Public Health from UH Manoa, is with UNICEF working to create healthier lives particularly for women and children.



Chair Uyeda and Eimi visiting with Sakiko, her husband Kevin, and their son Koa.

One of her projects is trying to build restrooms for school children. At many schools, students use a pit and have no facilities to wash their hands. As in all societies, some see no reason to change so even with \$4 million in funding from Commonwealth Nations, progress takes time.

It is not an easy environment to live in. Electricity is intermittent, most roads are unpaved, none have names and much of the paved roadway is littered with sizeable potholes, warm showers are a luxury and civil unrest creates considerable uncertainty. Nevertheless, **Sakiko** loves her work and is dedicated to finding solutions to make this a healthier society and Kevin supports her passion.

Touring the U.S. War Memorial, visiting a private museum which has collected relics from WWII, and standing on a hillside overlooking the beaches and the channel between Guadalcanal and neighboring islands trying to envision what the battle there must have been like, reinforced the importance of building relationships and healthier societies around the world.

## 2018 Travel Award Recipient

**Yoshiro Sakamoto** (2018-2020) writes, first let me express my sincerest gratitude to the Trustees of the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation, who kindly granted me a CPASF Travel Award. I participated in the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) conference which took place at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington between November 8 and 11, 2018.

In my presentation entitled “Embracing Indigeneity and Heterogeneity – Stefan Baciu, Jean Charlot and Larry Kauanoë Kimura in MELE – International Poetry Letter”, I



described the literary constellation of these three poets and other important poets and artists in post-war Hawaii through the lens of Stefan Baciu’s literary magazine *MELE*. The focus was on the cultural *mélange* between indigenous wisdom and diverse cultural influences of immigrants.

It was a stimulating and truly fantastic opportunity to introduce the poetry life of Stefan Baciu, an almost forgotten exile poet in Hawai’i, and his literary magazine *MELE-International Poetry Letter* to the academic community in North America, just after his centennial birthday on October 29th.

I am very grateful that the conference provided me with the great honor to make friends with several academicians, poets and writers from diverse backgrounds who were kind enough to show interest in my research and encouraged me to proceed. I sincerely appreciate CPASF’s generosity and warmth to allow me such wonderful opportunity, as always. Mahalo nui loa!

## The Soul of Poetry in Apocalyptic Era

**Yoshiro Sakamoto** (2018-2020) writes, in October 2018, I held centennial birthday events to commemorate poet Stefan Baciu’s literary legacy in Honolulu. Several important artists, poets and writers – some who had been close friends of Stefan Baciu – gathered and shared their nostalgic memories of the poet. Since then, I continued to celebrate Stefan Baciu’s centennial birthday anniversary on several occasions.

Specifically, I hosted a symposium titled, “*The Soul of Poetry in Apocalyptic Era - for Stefan Baciu’s Centennial Anniversary*” in Kyoto, Japan on January 6th, the date of his passing.



Yoshiro on left with poets Ryuta Imafuku and Itsushi Kawase at the Kyoto symposium.

I invited two Japanese renowned poets to the event: Ryuta Imafuku and Itsushi Kawase. Ryuta Imafuku is a Poet Anthropologist who met and shared the spirit of poetry with Stefan Baciu in the 90s just before his death. Itsushi Kawase is a famous Visual Anthropologist and poet who sent Amharic verses from Ethiopia to Honolulu for the centennial commemoration event. His verses were full of passion and sympathy for Baciu’s life of poetry.

We recited our own poems in combination with visual presentations and discussed the question, what words or poetry we ought to long for in this difficult era. All this was



dedicated to the poet Stefan Baciu who had craved truth, liberation, and a peaceful world throughout his literary activity.

Further, I presented to the audience a copy of *MELE Archipelago – Homage to Stefan Baciu for the Poet’s Centennial Birthday Anniversary*, a poetry magazine dedicated to the poet’s anniversary. Over 65 poets and artists from around the world contributed their fascinating art works including poems written in 28 languages and dialects, as well as visual art such as photography, illustrations, Japanese calligraphy or classic Chinese paper cutting, etc. to the magazine. The audience showed great interest and passionately read the special volume.

I am very glad and grateful for the fact that more than 50 people attended the event even though this Romano-Latino American-Hawaiian poet is not known in Japan. I especially appreciated the comment that the event seemed like a beautiful poem devoted to not only this unique poet, but also to the future world. It gave me hope that the event achieved its goal to honor this outstanding poet appropriately. I deeply appreciate the warm support from the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation to encourage me to advance my research and to provide me with the opportunity to hold such a meaningful symposium.

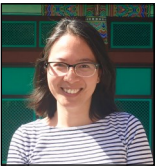


### Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation 1959-2019



Stay-tuned for more information on a 60th Anniversary Celebration planned for this Fall in Honolulu!

## Incoming New Scholar



**Francesca Pizarro** (2019-2020) earned her BA in East Asian Studies from the City University of New York (CUNY) Queen's College and her MA in Japanese Literature from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

She is currently a PhD candidate in Japanese Literature in the East Asian Languages and Literatures department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is interested in the representations of schoolgirls and girl culture in Meiji (1868-1912) and Taisho (1912-1926) era fiction and popular media.

**Francesca** will conduct her dissertation research as a student researcher under the mentorship of Dr. Hiraishi Noriko at the University of Tsukuba in Ibaraki, Japan.

## Donating Hair for a Worthy Cause

On April 28, 2019, **Robert Oda** (2018-2020) shaved his head and accepted donations for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Honolulu St. Baldrick's Foundation at the Mai Tai Bar in Ala Moana Center. **Robert** writes, "This foundation supports cancer research and gives fellowships to students in various labs around the nation. I was a St. Baldrick fellow in 2015 and I have been supporting the organization ever since."

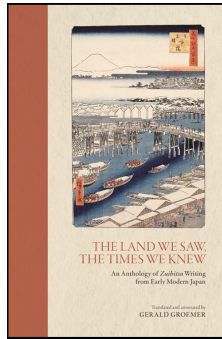
**Robert** says his first event was in the Summer of 2015 and he shaved his head then and once again in 2016. Beginning after the event in 2016, he stopped cutting his hair to grow enough hair to donate for a wig. He moved to Tokyo in August 2018 to do research in the detection of various cancers at the University of Tokyo. After two-and-a-half long years of hair growth, in October 2018 he successfully donated 15 inches of hair in Japan and contributed it to the cancer foundation in Tokyo so that a child could receive a wig.



Robert on left before and after his haircut on April 28, 2019.

## Former Scholar Wins Praise for His Latest Book

**Dr. Gerald Groemer** (1985-1986) wins praise for his latest book, "The Land We Saw, the Times We Knew": An Anthology of Zuihitsu writing from early modern Japan.



In a recent review, Mr. Oscar Boyd of the Japan Times writes, the book provides fascinating insight into early-modern Japan: A neat collection of zuihitsu (essays) authored by Buddhist monks, doctors and warrior-class poets, the book is broken into seven chapters, each of which offers a treatise on different aspects of the country — from kabuki theater to the differences between the shogun and emperor's capital — as well as a detailed introduction to the

zuihitsu form written by translator **Gerald Groemer**. "...the detail captured in each chapter shows the prowess of **Groemer** at conveying the sensory landscape..."



**Dr. Groemer** is currently a Professor and former Department Chair at the University of Yamanishi in Kofu, Japan where he has been teaching since 1998.

Source: Japan Times; March 2, 2019; "Collection of essays offers insight on early Japan"; <http://japantimes.co.jp/tag/gerald-groemer/>. C.V. of Gerald Groemer; University of Yamanishi – Academia.edu. Photo Sources: University of Yamanishi – Academia.edu; and Amazon.com (book).

Photo Source: <http://yamanashi.academia.edu/GeraldGroemer>

## Kakehashi Inouye Scholars Program



**Dr. Janet Ikeda** (1979-1980) chaperoned a group of 23 Washington and Lee University (W&L) students to Tokyo and Kanegawa, Japan in February 2019 as part of the Kakehashi Inouye Scholars Program.

The Kakehashi project is funded by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is administered by the U.S. Japan Council. The project's goal is to improve Japanese-U.S. relations by inviting American college students to Japan. The program was established in 2013 and the invitation to participate in the program is only extended to a handful of schools every year.

**Dr. Ikeda**, an Associate Professor of East

Asian Languages and Literature at W&L in Lexington, Virginia states, "We were very lucky to be chosen." W&L was one of only four schools selected to participate in this year's Kakehashi program. As part of the same program, a group of students from Kanazawa University visited Lexington in March 2019 to experience American college life and also reunite with W&L students they met in Kanegawa the previous month.

Source: Lindsey Nair; <http://columns.wlu.edu/building-a-bridge-across-the-globe/>; Building a Bridge Across the Globe; April 3, 2019.

Photo Source: [www.wlu.edu/east-asian-languages-and-literatures-department/faculty-and-staff/profile?ID=x3673](http://www.wlu.edu/east-asian-languages-and-literatures-department/faculty-and-staff/profile?ID=x3673).

## New Position

**Dr. Xander Krieg** (2016-2018) graduated from UH Manoa with his PhD in December 2018 and has taken a new position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Communication at Kobe Gakuin University. He will be teaching Psychology and Communication classes.



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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