

Scholar Update

Featuring our current and past scholars



Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation

Summer 2019 Edition

Awards Ceremony at the Japanese Consulate

Chairman's Message

The CPASF held a ceremony on June 20, 2019 at the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu to present scholarship awards to Masaki Eguchi and Francesca Pizarro. Mr. Allen Uyeda, Chairman, made the presentation on behalf of the CPASF board.

Masaki Eguchi (2018-2019) received a Master's degree in Education (English Language Teaching) from the Graduate School of Education at Waseda University, Tokyo. He is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Second Language Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. His interests include second-language vocabulary learning and teaching, usage-based approaches to language acquisition and content-based instruction. Specifically, his research focuses on the development of the lexical network in learner mental lexicon to draw some implications for foreign language teaching.

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



(L-R) 1st Row: Consul General Ito; Masaki Eguchi; Francesca Pizarro; and Allen Uyeda. 2nd Row: Christine Yano; Allen Zecha; Reyna Kaneko; Bob Huey; Jean Rolles; and Lonny Carlile.

Hawaii at Manoa. She is currently a PhD candidate in Japanese Literature in the East Asian Languages and Literature 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. She will conduct her dissertation research as a student researcher under the mentorship of Dr. Hiraishi Noriko at the University of Tsukuba in Ibaraki, Japan.

Mahalo to the Consul General Ito for hosting our event.

For nearly 60 years, CPASF scholars have had the rare opportunity to attend an audience with Their Majesties, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. A highlight of our scholars' academic study – both in Hawaii and Japan – this audience has come to embody the focus on inspiring people to create the future they dream of that has characterized the Heisei Era.

Through their unwavering support, Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko have left an indelible impact on those who have been fortunate to meet with them. Their Majesties' intense interest and concern for others, humility and courage redefined the role of the Imperial family and continue to provide a singular legacy for our Foundation.

In my capacity as Chair over these last few years, I have been privileged to attend these audiences with their Majesties, and to witness the emotion and truly personal exchange with our scholars. The depth of their Majesties' interest and generosity has not only encouraged individual students, but generations of scholars. It continues to be exciting and inspiring to watch so many talented and hard-working scholars, profoundly impacted by their CPASF experience, make a difference in improving our world.

With the passing of the Heisei Era, we have regretfully been informed that this is to be the last year new CPASF scholars will have an audience with Their Majesties as they retire from public life. While some of the experiences CPASF scholars have had are changing, the importance of the CPASF mission remains, perhaps even more so today with all the turmoil in the world. CPASF is positioned to fulfill its charter and operate in perpetuity. We are indebted to the visionaries who, 60 years ago, recognized the importance of individuals forging an understanding of other nations at a very personal level along with their desire to strengthen ties to their roots.

We will forever be indebted to Their Majesties for the example they have given us.

Allen B Uyeda

Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation

Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation 1959-2019

Please note, the CPASF 60th Anniversary Celebration originally planned for Fall 2019 in Honolulu has been postponed until Spring 2020.



New Date:

Friday, April 10, 2020

Royal Hawaiian Hotel

Additional Details to Follow



Expressions of Gratitude for the CPASF

Yoshiro Sakamoto (2017-2019) writes, first of all, I would like to sincerely express my deepest gratitude to the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation, the Trustees and the kind and warm Staff who provided me with the extraordinary and beautiful chance to advance my research at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for the last two years.

It was a dream-like experience to get closer to Stefan Baciú's life and poetry in Honolulu, the city where the exiled poet had resided in the latter part of his life and had ended his exile journey. During my time here, I had the opportunity to encounter a lot of fascinating people including those who were friends with the poet. It was one of the most gorgeous rewards so far during my study and research and I built close ties with these beautiful beings. In fact, I was able to collaborate with them in celebrating the poet's Centennial Birthday Anniversary in 2018 through several events dedicated to the poet and the publication of *Mele-Archipelago*.

This poetry magazine, a revival of Stefan Baciú's wonderful literary magazine that he had published in small editions for 30 years in Hawai'i, was made possible through splendid contributions not only from his followers in Hawai'i but also from manifold poets and artists from all continents and over all oceans. All of these events and the publication were attempted in spirit of Stefan Baciú's poetry and I hope, from the bottom of my heart, that they were received with joy



Yoshiro, his wife Isabel, and their son Naghisa at Shimogamo shrine in Kyoto.

somewhere by Baciú himself. Yet, all of this would have been impossible without the support of the CPASF.

Now, at a moment of having to bring an end to these wonderful two years of research at UH Manoa, I am in the middle of giving my best to finish the writing of my doctoral thesis about Stefan Baciú's poetry life. At the same time, I was granted the opportunity to publish a book of poetry together with two of my great teachers that I sincerely look up to. This work is also dedicated to Stefan Baciú and will soon be launched by a publishing house located in Kamakura. This is a wonderful opportunity to advocate and spread the poet's significant literary legacy in Japan.

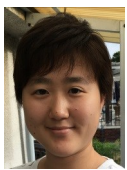
I am very motivated to continue my research after obtaining my PhD and I will give my very best to keep the strong ties with this beautiful archipelago and the amazing people that I have met on my journey. Specifically, I am planning to investigate the intellectual history of immigrants from diverse backgrounds who came to Hawai'i after WWII in my post-doctoral research.

I truly hope that my efforts so far could already make a small meaningful contribution to building and re-forming the cultural bridge between United States, Hawai'i and Japan, while respecting Stefan Baciú's poetry spirit of generosity, liberty and borderlessness. I will definitely keep seeking it in my future journeys too.

Before closing this final letter, please allow me to express my sincere and deep gratitude to the CPASF's thoughtful consideration and understanding of my wife's and son's situation whom I left behind in Kyoto when I came to Hawaii. Thanks to your generosity of allowing me to frequently go back to Kyoto and take care of my family, I was still able to enjoy the pleasure of being a responsible and loving parent and to support my wife during this graceful time in Hawai'i.

I cannot find adequate words to sufficiently express my gratitude to the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation, as well as to my beloved family who has also supported me in so many ways during these two years.

Incoming New Scholar



Hiroko Saito (2019-2021) received a Master's degree in English from the Graduate School of Letters, Arts and Sciences at Waseda University, Tokyo. She will be a PhD student at the Department of American Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Fall 2019.

Hiroko's academic interests include Japanese American literature, Japanese literature in English, and trans-Pacific studies. She will focus on Japanese women writers who published their autobiographies in English in the first half of the 20th century.

New Invigorating Energy

Robert Oda (2018-2020) writes, I can't believe that it has almost been a year since I have moved here! I have been having an absolute blast in Tokyo and I am looking forward to more adventures this coming year as I start my second year of study under the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship.

So far, research has been progressing quite nicely. We have in place an exciting new way to visualize cancerous cells using our laser system here at the University of Tokyo; if our calculations are correct, we have the fastest acquisition time in the world so far! I am currently working on an abstract right now that will be submitted to the Photonics West Conference 2020 in San Francisco. I am excited that I may be able to share my work

over the past year at a very large optics conference with a group of international researchers.

This coming year is looking busy: I will be completing my PhD at the University of Hawaii with the research that will be conducted during the second year of the scholarship. I am working hard to gather data for my last part of my dissertation, and I want to have enough exciting things to add to it! It is quite a daunting task as there is still so much that I need to read and write about, but I am motivated and ready to take on this challenge this year.

(Continued on pg. 3)

New Invigorating Energy

Continued from pg. 2

In the Ozeki lab, we had some members leave us after graduation; but we also welcomed new members at the start of the new semester! There is a new reinvigorated energy in the lab, and everyone is excited to embark on their respective projects for the next year!

Outside of lab, I have had the opportunity to see more of Tokyo and other areas. My girlfriend, Betsy, and I have been trying to get out of the main city and have made day trips to Kawagoe, Kamakura, and Enoshima recently.

As the seasons turn from summer to fall, we want to explore more of the countryside and hope to see Yamanashi and maybe more west to Kyoto and Kobe! Maybe Hokkaido in winter?? We have also been to our first music concert in Japan and saw Mr. Children and went to a Yomiuri Giants baseball game



Robert with his girlfriend Betsy enjoying their summer excursion to Enoshima Island.

(they won!). Learning Japanese has been an adventure and a half! I have learned so much since I have moved, and I am steadily improving. The national Japanese Language Proficiency Test offers me a chance to prove myself and I wish to take the JLPT N3 this winter; if I pass that, I will try for the N2 in the summer next year! I have a few Japanese books lying on my dinner table to get me ready and I look forward to improving!

Overall, 2018-2019 was incredible and I learned so much about myself and grew more as a researcher and as a person. I am ready for what this next year has to offer and I will continue to represent Hawaii with pride. Learning Japanese has been an adventure and a half! I have learned so much since I have moved, and I am steadily improving.

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2019 CPASF Travel Award



OBJECTIVE: Encourage CPASF scholars in ongoing UH Manoa degree programs to gain professional preparation through participation in academic conferences.

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.

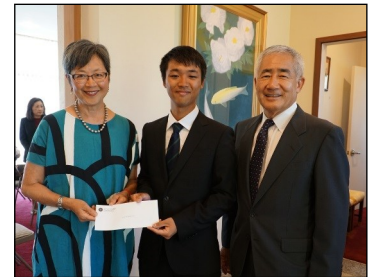
REMAINING FUNDS: For 2019, \$1,000 in Travel Award funds have been distributed leaving a balance of up to \$1,000 for the calendar year.

APPLY: Please contact Marsha Yokomichi, CPASF Vice President at myokomichi@jshawaii.org or ph. (808) 524-4450 for more information or to request an application. **Deadline to apply: 12/1/19.**

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

Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation
1600 Kapiolani Blvd, #204
Honolulu, HI 96814
www.cpasfoundation.org

2019 Travel Award Recipient Named



Travel Award Committee Co-Chair Christine Yano and CPASF Chair Allen Uyeda presenting the \$1,000 award check to Masami

Congratulations to **Masaki Eguchi** (2018-2019) for being selected as a CPASF Travel Award recipient for 2019. **Masaki** received his award in connection with a trip to Leuven, Belgium for the Vocab@Leuven 2019 conference. The conference is related to second-language vocabulary teaching.

Masaki will be presenting two research projects at the conference: One on Operationalizing semantic disparity using vector semantics and the other on Measuring productive lexical proficiency using dependency-based collocations.