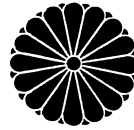


Scholar Update

Featuring our current and past scholars



Crown Prince Akihito
Scholarship Foundation

Winter 2019 Edition

A Student of Literature Travels

Francesca Pizarro (2019-2020) writes: It's been nearly three months since I moved to Japan to begin my year as a CPASF scholar. I've spent an extended period of time in Japan in the past, but it is my first time experiencing life in the city of Tsukuba in Ibaraki Prefecture. I've settled in nicely and have been attending a weekly seminar with my advisor at the University of Tsukuba. I'm receiving wonderful feedback from both my advisor and fellow students on my project. The university's sprawling campus (the second largest in the nation) and the quiet city around it make for a pleasant and productive environment for me to work on my dissertation.



Francesca in Kyoto, enjoying the beginnings of autumn.



A small sample of the extensive girls' (shōjo) magazine collection found in the Center for International Children's Literature at the Osaka Prefectural Library.

While I spend a significant amount of my time reading and writing at the university's library, the primary purpose of my year in Japan is archival research and the gathering of primary source materials on the life, literature, and culture related to Japanese female students in the Meiji (1868-1912) and Taishō (1912-1926) eras.

Visiting the libraries and archives that house the materials I need has been a wonderful opportunity to also travel throughout Japan and (re)discover some of my favorite places. Though located in a different prefecture, it is easy to commute to Tokyo from Tsukuba—an express train line connects the two cities and I can reach Tokyo in under an hour.

Going to the National Diet Library, located in the Tokyo's city center, has always been on my to-do list, but it has also been great to discover that the Modern Japanese Literature Museum has a lot of the materials I need. The museum is located in a quiet suburban neighborhood in the western part of Tokyo and it has a cozy in-house café serving

lunches inspired by dishes mentioned in famous Japanese novels.

When I went there, I had a beef rice dish (*gyūmeshi*) inspired by Hayashi Fumiko's novel *Tales of a Vagabond* (*Hōrōki*, 1927). Conducting research turns out to be an opportunity to travel outside the bounds of the typical tourist guidebook! Last month, I took the bullet train to Japan's Kansai area to visit another useful archive, the Center for International Children's Literature at the Osaka Prefectural Library. I visited the library for two days, getting photocopies of early 20th century teen girls' magazines I needed for my research, then spent another two days in Kyoto to visit temples and enjoy the fall foliage. After living in Hawaii for years, seeing leaves turn into autumn colors feels brand new to me again!

I experienced life in Japan for the first time in the Kansai region when I was doing a year of study abroad in college a decade ago, so this particular trip made me feel nostalgic and gave me a chance to reflect on how far I've come in my Japanese studies.

The generous support of the CPASF has made the recent progress in my research possible. But it has also given me many new things to appreciate about Japan and for that I am truly grateful.



Mt. Fuji on a crisp, clear day; taken from the bullet train headed to Osaka.

Chairman's Message

In a short few months, the corona virus has upended the world economy and lives everywhere, demonstrating how interconnected the world is and how important constructive relationships between countries are.

I hope that CPASF and our scholars will continue to make significant contributions that will enhance the synergy between Japan and the U.S.

A sincere thank you to Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and the Empress Emerita for inspiring us all and to the generous donors who continue to support CPASF.

Please stay safe and healthy during this challenging time.

Allen Uyeda

Scholar Update from Tokyo

Robert Oda (2018-2020) writes: It's starting to get really really cold in Tokyo now, but work is starting to heat up. I recently started the last stretch of my research and will be working to polish up my dissertation for my final defense in April. It's been a long journey for my PhD but I have enjoyed every moment of this whole experience and can't wait to wrap up this chapter of my life.



Before I defend, I will be traveling to San Francisco to participate in Photonics West. It is one of the largest photonics and optic physics conferences in the world and I was selected to give an oral presentation on my work in Raman Spectroscopy. I have one more experiment to verify the results, but I think we will be able to present something that is compelling and exciting.

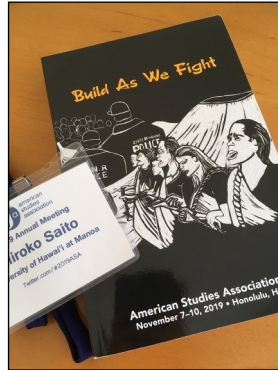
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A New Venture in American Studies

Hiroko Saito (2019-2021) writes: It's been four months since I came to Hawaii and now I'm finishing the first semester here. The time I have spent in Hawaii is really great and it is because I could concentrate on my study thanks to the support from CPASF.

This semester, I took three courses: Introduction to American Studies, Indigenous Studies, and Japanese Literature. I majored in American Literature when I was in Japan, so all of these three classes widened my vision in many ways. It was difficult to absorb everything I learned from these classes since there were so many things I encountered for the first time, but the knowledge I acquired in these classes surely benefited me for the future.

In my Introduction to American Studies class, I learned a new perspective for understanding American history. While I knew a lot about the history of Asian immigrants because I studied Japanese American Literature for a long time, this class helped me to understand it in the broader context of American history. I worried a little



about my decision to transfer to a new discipline before I came here, but the knowledge and the perspective I learned in this class were so helpful and interesting that I'm really glad about my new scholarly journey in American Studies now.

Fortunately, the American Studies Association had its annual meeting in Honolulu this year and I had an opportunity to attend. There were panels and presentations by scholars from not only all over the U.S. but also Japan and other

countries. I heard various interesting presentations through which I could learn the latest trend of this field. I would like to challenge a presentation in a conference if I have another opportunity to attend.

Above all things, I love the weather of Hawaii so much. It's still warm in December and it is perfect for studying. Furthermore, I often see a big beautiful rainbow from my room recently. I have been too busy to go to the beaches or the mountains, but this weather and rainbows are wonderful enough to make me appreciate the nature of Hawaii. I love to enjoy this environment while studying.



Update from Tokyo

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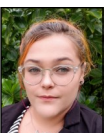
Other than that, Betsy and I have been enjoying our lives here in Japan. We recently spent Thanksgiving in Minnesota with her parents and I got to work on the family farm as well!

My parents visited Tokyo as well and we were able to visit the Studio Ghibli Museum. It was really cool to see all the original drawings that Miyazaki did and we watched a really cute and interesting short movie.



Everything is wrapping up for 2019, but 2020 is looking to be even more exciting and I can't wait to see what the next decade has in store.

New American Scholar Named



Please welcome **Leah Wasil** as our new CPASF American scholar for 2020-2021. **Leah** received her BA from Central Washington University in Anthropology and East Asian Studies, and her MA from Brandeis University in Anthropology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Currently she

is a PhD candidate in the Anthropology department at UH Manoa. She is interested in Japanese archaeology, heritage making and identity politics, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Her work investigates relationships between public archaeology and heritage production.



Join us as we celebrate the
60th Anniversary of the CPASF!

New Date:

Thursday, August 13, 2020

Royal Hawaiian Hotel

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

Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation

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