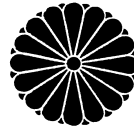


Scholar Update

Featuring our current and past scholars



Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation

Spring 2020 Edition

Enjoying Nature and Soba Amid the Pandemic

Hiroko Saito (2019-2021) writes: During the Winter vacation, I had a lot of time to enjoy Hawaii. I went to Manoa Falls, Kailua Beach, Hawaii State Art Museum, and also many restaurants. I was too busy to go hiking or to go to the beach during my first semester, so it was the first time for me to have fun in nature while in Hawaii. Both Manoa Falls and Kailua Beach were really beautiful and refreshing.

I also visited many Japanese restaurants. A soba restaurant I went to for "toshikoshi soba" was my favorite. I was surprised that I could eat such delicious soba in Hawaii.

Now I'm in the middle of my second semester in UH. Though we cannot meet in person right now because of COVID-19, we meet online and have rich discussions. I'm taking three courses this semester and one of them is on Asian-American literature. Since I study Japanese-American literature, this class helps my research a lot. The readings and discussions I have had in this class have broadened my knowledge about this area of

study and now I'm trying to learn how I can find information regarding Issei Japanese-American literature in the scholarly discourse of Asian-American literature.

Another class I'm taking is on Japanese Classical Literature. Reading classical Japanese was not easy at first since I hadn't studied it since I was a high school student, but I enjoy it a lot and am getting familiar with it. The skill of reading old Japanese literature written in the Edo period will expand my research scope. It enables me to see the continuity between Edo and Meiji as I focus on my research.



To get through the current depressing COVID-19 situation, I have recently begun to take short walks everyday. I also talk on the phone with my friends and write letters more often than before. With these things, I try to keep myself healthy physically and mentally.

Chair's Message

In May, the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita inquired about the COVID-19 situation with the CPASF Scholars and people of Hawaii.

Fortunately, the scholars are all healthy and finding varying ways to address these unexpected challenges. Hiroko Saito is in Hawaii working within the State's constraints. Junichi Yagi will complete his program this year remotely from Japan. Jennifer Yoo is back at home in Massachusetts helping her family and intends to return to UH in Spring 2021. Robbie Oda invited me to view his dissertation defense for his PhD from the University of Hawaii, via Zoom, which he successfully completed from Japan.

Facing the challenges created by COVID-19 and witnessing the resilience of and dedicated efforts by the CPASF scholars has given me renewed appreciation for the vision that the CPASF founders had and the importance of sustaining the Foundation's mission.

We are all very appreciative of Their Majesties Emeriti's continued interest in the CPASF scholars.

Allen B Uyeda

In Memoriam—Siegfried Ramler



Mr. Siegfried Ramler, one of the CPASF's Founding-Trustees, passed away on January 19, 2020. He was born in Vienna, Austria.

Mr. Ramler served on the CPASF Board for 57 years from 1959 until 2016. He also served on the Japan-America Society of Hawaii Board from the inception of JASH in 1976 to 2016 (40 years).

From 1945-1949, **Mr. Ramler** worked at the Nuremberg Trials where senior Nazi officers were put on trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity. He and his team of interpreters pioneered the technique of simultaneous-translation.

Mr. Ramler also spent 40 years at Punahou School where he taught language and

literature and founded the Wo International Center. After retiring from Punahou, he served as an Adjunct Senior Fellow at East-West Center.

Services were held on March 1, 2020 at the Thurston Memorial Chapel at Punahou School.



Hawaii Reception for Scholars
June 25, 1994

L-R: Siegfried Ramler, Howard Hamamoto, then Crown Princess Michiko and then Crown Prince Akihito.

Source: CPASF File Photos



EVENT CANCELLED

60th Anniversary of the CPASF Thursday, August 13, 2020

Due to the health and safety of our Scholars, Alumni, Trustees, and Friends, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the celebration due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

We are currently waiting for a refund from the event-venue and will start processing refunds to all table sponsors and guests shortly.

PhD Defense and the Corononavirus

Robert Oda (2018-2020) writes: The start to 2020 has been dominated by two things in my life: Defending my PhD and the coronavirus. I have just returned from Hawaii and am writing this update in my apartment and almost halfway through a 14-day quarantine.

I don't want to spend too much time on the recent news about coronavirus, but the main thing everyone should know is that we need to all do our part to keep each other safe. Maintain a safe distance from everyone and follow proper hygiene (disinfecting surfaces, washing hands, not touching your face, etc.). Listen to the proper government organizations and pay attention to the news so you can stay informed during this unprecedented time. This is a global situation and we all need to do our part to get through it together. We can do it!

But, aside from the coronavirus pandemic, I have been extremely busy recently. Before the situation got bad, I travelled to San Francisco in early February to give an oral presentation of all the work that was completed during my time at University of Tokyo at the SPIE Photonics West BIOS Conference



Robert (right) with fellow attendees at the SPIE Photonics West BIOS Conference



2020. Photonics West is the largest optics conference in the world and was attended by all the leading scientists in the physics and engineering world.

There were so many amazing talks and exhibits at the conference; it was by far the largest conference I have ever attended. It was an amazing experience to deliver a talk in front of so many brilliant minds and I also got to meet a lot of new people and learn more about the field of Raman spectroscopy.

I managed to find time in between the conference to also sightsee in San Francisco, see Lucasfilms (my friend works there and was able to give me a tour) and watch the Super Bowl unfortunately the 49ers lost).

But now, I am pleased to say that I have come to the end of my PhD journey, and soon, the end of my CPASF journey. One week from the time of writing this scholar update, I will be defending my PhD (which will be done remotely from Japan due to the current situation going on in the world).

I am so excited to be able to present to my committee all of the work that I have done the past five-years and I am absolutely honored that the past two-years have been made possible because of the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation.

The experience I have had in Tokyo has been the most incredible two-years of my life and truly a dream come true. I am so grateful to the Foundation for having faith in me the past two-years and allowing me the opportunity to represent Hawaii and the U.S.A. while I completed my studies.

I still have a lot to do in preparation of my defense; I am nervous and anxious, but I am so excited to be able to wrap it all up soon. If I pass my defense, hopefully the next time you hear from me will be from Dr. Robert Oda.

In Memoriam—Irene Hirano Inouye



CPASF Trustee, **Irene Hirano Inouye**, passed away on April 7, 2020 at her home in Los Angeles, California. She served on the CPASF Board of Trustees from July 2014 until her passing. She was President of the U.S.-Japan Council and the widow to Senator Daniel K. Inouye.



Ms. Inouye had a prominent career in the non-profit world as she served as the President and founding Chief Executive Officer of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles from 1988-2008. She transformed that organization into a

first-class modern museum through fund-raising campaigns which raised over \$60 million over the years.

In 2009, she and Senator Inouye started the U.S. Japan Council where she served until January 2020. Also, in 2014 while serving as Chair for the Kresge Foundation and the Ford Foundation, she was instrumental in persuading both foundations to contribute \$225 million to help bring Detroit out of one of the largest municipal bankruptcies in history.

Ms. Inouye had a strong sense of social-responsibility from a very young age. She once organized a fund-raising campaign while she was in junior high school to purchase a wheelchair for an orphanage.

She will be sorely missed because of all of her

life-accomplishments and especially for her work in promoting personal relationships between Japanese and Americans.

Sources: The New York Times; <https://nyti.ms/2KZtBH9>; and the Los Angeles Times; <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-04-16/irene-hirano-inouye-cha-japanese-american-causes-dies>.

Photo: CPASF file photo

Flower-Viewing—Small Happiness in the Midst of Troubling Times



Francesca Pizarro (2019-2020) writes: It now feels like a lifetime ago, but I went to see the plum blossoms at the famous Kairaku-en back in February. Considered one of the

“Three Great Gardens of Japan”, Kairaku-en is located in Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture. It is worth visiting all year round and features a bamboo grove and cedar forest, but the highlight is certainly the many plum tree varieties that blossom in the early Spring.

I have always loved being in Japan during the Spring and early-Summer seasons and my past experiences of living here has taught me to look forward to celebrating the flowers that bloom throughout the months. The plum blossoms usually signal the start of

flower-viewing occasions, which is followed in succession by cherry blossoms in early-April, wisteria blossoms in May, and hydrangeas in June. This past April, I managed to see the *sakura* in full bloom, though *hanami* [flower-viewing] has been strictly limited to the few cherry blossom trees that line the street when I walk to the grocery store.

Spring has arrived here in Japan in the midst of the anxiety and uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the globe. With these concerns weighing on me—and probably because my excursions outside my apartment are now limited to my once-a-week trips to the grocery store—the sight of the cherry blossoms then and the other flowering trees blooming now feel even more rewarding. Reminders to find small happiness in the midst of troubling times. I’m trying to keep busy while in self-quarantine, reading books

and drafting chapters of my research. Once a week, I take part in a seminar run by my advisor at the University of Tsukuba, which is conducted through video chat.

I have also spent a lot of my time catching up with friends and loved ones in the States. I decided to stay in Japan and return to the States once my scheduled year of research is concluded in September. There is archival work that I still hope to conduct before I leave Japan, if and when research libraries in Tokyo are deemed safe to open. In the meantime, I’m glad for the more rural atmosphere here in Tsukuba. I can open the window, now that it is getting warmer, and look out into a small park while I work at my desk.



筑波大学
University of Tsukuba

2020 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 2020, no Travel Award funds have been distributed leaving a balance of up to \$1,000 for two scholars this 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: 12/1/20.**

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.

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