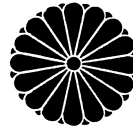


Scholar Update

Featuring our current and past scholars



Crown Prince Akihito
Scholarship Foundation

Fall 2020 Edition

Challenges of the Ongoing Pandemic

Like so many other plans in this COVID-19 pandemic environment, our CPASF scholars were forced to pivot and change their plans for study/research under our CPASF scholarship program.

Returning Japanese scholar **Hiroko Saito** (2019-2021) has been in Hawaii since starting her program with us. She did not return home to Japan for even a short visit for fear of not being able to return due to quarantine restrictions in both Japan and in Hawaii.

Our 2020-2021 American Scholar, **Leah Wasil**, has deferred starting her program in Japan until the pandemic subsides. Right now, most universities in Japan are not accepting incoming foreign students on their campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Japanese scholar **Katsuhiko Kitada** (2020-2022) decided to stay home in Japan and take his online classes at UH Manoa on the advice of his Academic Advisor. He will hopefully be able to arrive in Honolulu next semester but that will depend on the current situation with the pandemic at that time.

The CPASF is committed to remaining flexible in the Administration of our scholarship as we try to assist our current and incoming CPASF scholars in this challenging environment. Our priority is the health and safety of our scholars.

Our hope is that the pandemic settles down soon so that our scholars will be able to travel to Hawaii and Japan to start their programs where they intended to.

COVID-19 has reinforced how much we depend on each other and find interactions with others a critical and rejuvenating part of life.

Technology has helped facilitate these interactions and I want to thank the JASH staff under the leadership of Reyna Kaneko and Marsha Yokomichi for staying in touch with the scholars and applicants and continuing CPASF's programs.

While it is disappointing to see the scholars' plans disrupted, it is inspiring to see how they continue to forge ahead in spite of the difficulties.

Allen B Uyeda

Positivity and Productivity Amidst Uncertain Times



New 2020-2021 American scholar **Leah Wasil** writes: Seven months into the new decade, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt institutions of higher learning.

At the individual level, the pandemic has caused a disruption in my own ability to start dissertation research. As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, institutions in both the United States and Japan are taking measures to lessen the negative impact on students.

To name an example, Sophia University in urban Tokyo will not be allowing students to depart for study abroad in Fall 2020 and is unlikely to be accepting international students. What is more, other major universities across Japan are likely to follow suit and the Japanese government is rumored to be considering restricting access to Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, and Kanagawa prefectures. Given this context, I made the informed decision to postpone my travel to Japan until 2021.

This decision, however, came with great difficulty. When I received the CPASF award in January 2020, I planned to leave for Japan in September. The strict timeline I set to complete my doctorate had little room for delays, and I was certain that with dedication

and hard-work I could meet this goal.

While the decision to delay my research was disappointing, I have also found positivity and productivity amidst uncertain times. Newfound freedom in working from home has opened up time to develop my professional skills through non-traditional avenues.

I will be submitting proposals for presentation to both the Association for Asian Studies Conference and the Society of East Asian Archaeology Conference on UNESCO and Japanese Archaeology for the 2021 conference season. I will also continue to attend virtual conferences and workshops. Lastly, I will continue to develop my Japanese language proficiency through virtual conversation groups with friends in Japan.

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.

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Virtual CPASF Orientation



On September 16, 2020, the CPASF held our first-ever virtual CPASF Orientation Session for those interested in applying for the 2021-2022 CPASF scholarship program. Our event, held via Zoom, is usually an in-person event hosted by the Center for Japanese Studies in their Tokioka Room. While we did miss the warm hospitality of the CJS staff, our virtual Orientation was well attended with over a dozen prospective applicants attending.

We were also fortunate to have immediate-past CPASF American Scholar **Francesca Pizarro** (2019-2020) as our guest speaker. She spoke about her unique but challenging time trying to continue with her research in Japan while in the middle of the pandemic. She also answered general questions from the audience.

Mahalo to the Dr. Lonny Carlile and Dr. Gay Satsuma of the Center for Japanese Studies for helping us host our CPASF virtual Orientation Session.