

Scholar Update

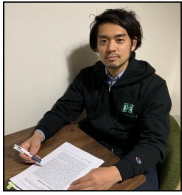
Featuring our current and past scholars



Crown Prince Akihito
Scholarship Foundation

Spring & Summer 2021

Connected Although A Great Distance Apart



Katsuhiko Kitada (2020-2022) writes from Japan: With the ongoing pandemic, I have learned a lot about not only my area of study but also how I can be engaged among communities to which I belong.

In the Spring 2021 semester, I am taking three exciting online courses at UHM. Even if I cannot meet my other classmates and professors in-person, we always have amazing discussions online. The hardest course that I have among the three is *Language Concepts for Second Language Learning and Teaching*. In it, we learn about how languages are constructed with linguistic perspectives such as the sound system; and the internal structure of words, sentences, and their meaning.

The course has provided me with many new terminologies which I have never heard before. Thus, I often translate them into Japanese in order to gain further understanding. I believe that this experience will help my next step as an educator and language expert.

I also had a moving experience during the semester. One day, I didn't feel well so I couldn't attend a class. After that, some classmates sent me warm and thoughtful email messages to show their concern for me. They asked me if I needed any help to catch up with the class that I missed. I was so moved by their consideration, and it made me feel that we were able to be connected and take care of each other even though we are apart by a great distance.

This Spring 2021 semester keeps giving me precious opportunities to grow as a researcher and a member of the community where I am willing to contribute to. I am now making plans regarding my Scholarly Paper (SP) which I will be focusing on during the upcoming semesters.

It is true that I still have one year to finish my MA study. However, one year of my MA program has passed more quickly than I imagined. Considering this uncertain pandemic situation, I will try to narrow down the theme and focus for my SP as soon as possible. I am now more motivated than ever!

Outdoors Exploring Honolulu—Spring 2021

Hiroko Saito (2019-2021) writes: The situation with the COVID-19 pandemic here in Hawaii has gradually changed since my last update in the Winter 2020 CPASF newsletter.

Many of my professors and classmates have taken the COVID-19 vaccination and some of next semester's classes are planned to be in-person again. Just as the days of our lives greatly changed last year, I am hoping that the situation will significantly change again soon.

As the Summer season is approaching and the daylight hours are getting longer, I've been getting up early and am enjoying walking outdoors exploring in the cool morning air. It is a very refreshing time of day and it also helps me to concentrate on studying. Although we still have to stay home most of the time because of the ongoing pandemic, I'm glad that I found an enjoyable and safe outdoor activity.

When I left Japan to start my CPASF

scholarship program here in Honolulu, I had planned to go back home during the



A statue of Elvis Presley at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center was one of the things Hiroko discovered while out exploring.

Summer. However, because of the pandemic, traveling to Japan and returning to Hawaii currently seems difficult because of the restrictions both in Hawaii and in Japan. Also, the conference in which I will present a paper has announced that it will be held virtually online so I can participate in it from Hawaii.

It is a little disappointing that I can't spend the Summer in Japan though. Yet, having a long vacation free from coursework is a good time to focus on my own projects. Also, the rich resources in the UH library are really helpful. One of my aims for 2021 is to publish an article in an academic journal, so I'm sure it will be a good opportunity to work towards that goal.

Chair's Message

Where there is a will, there is a way. It is inspirational to learn how our CPASF scholars have continued their work in spite of the obstacles COVID has created.

Their Majesties Emeriti are known for having helped people deal with disasters and they are no doubt proud of how our scholars have met this challenge. It is refreshing to hear how people are supporting one another and building meaningful relationships despite obstacles.

The tremendous variety of areas the scholars are exploring is amazing. All our communities benefit from a rich variety of perspectives and skills, and the CPASF scholars are definitely helping to expand our perspectives about our world.

Please help continue the strong interest from applicants by ensuring students know about CPASF.

Allen B Uyeda

New Japan Scholar Selected



Please welcome **Ryo Dobashi** as our new CPASF Japan scholar for 2021-2023.

Ryo received his Bachelor's degree in Applied Marine Science from Hokkaido University. He also completed the Nitobe College Undergraduate Program with honors. He received a Master's degree in Marine Bioresource and Environmental Science from the Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences at Hokkaido University.

He was honored with the Sasa Shigeo Award by the Graduate School for his academic achievement. **Ryo** is currently a Doctoral student in the same Graduate School and will be a Ph.D. student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa from Fall 2021.

His research interest is in Marine Geology and Geochemistry specifically with the exchange of gas between the ocean and the atmosphere.





Mahalo to CPASF Trustees **Daniel Dinell** and **Peter Dames** for establishing a new CPASF LinkedIn page! With over 700 million members, LinkedIn is a powerful way for professionals to network.

We urge you to "follow" [The Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation](#) page on LinkedIn. This online community allows current and past scholars, Trustees, and friends, to easily connect with each other.

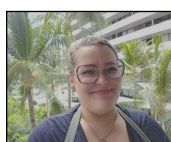
Please also make sure that your personal LinkedIn profile includes a reference link to

this page noting your current or past association with the Foundation.

One of our Trustees used LinkedIn to connect with his now retired University of Tokyo professor from decades ago after they had lost touch. The result? Several evenings of sushi and wonderful conversations and reconnecting.

This is a terrific, and easy, way to harness the strength of the CPASF network throughout one's professional life and continue to forge long-lasting bonds and connections.

New American Scholars Waiting to Depart for Japan



Leah Wasil (2020-2021) writes: As the pandemic continues to impact scholars around the world, including myself, I have been able to continue

archival research remotely and to conduct preliminary participant observation research in Hawaii. In pursuit of expanding my archival base, I have reached out to many American and Japanese scholars to widen my network of associates.

This newly developed network has allowed me to meet many wonderful people from various institutions across the world. My most recent research looks at the role of museums in presenting Japanese history. Complementary to this, I have also been reading original reports on archaeology to better understand how artifacts and their interpretations are conveyed to the public through museums. Since almost all artifacts end up being displayed in museums, a broader view of these processes will help me to contextualize my research.

Despite the difficulties surrounding the pandemic, I was lucky enough to be hired to a cultural resource management firm (CRM; the U.S.'s version of public archaeology) in Hawaii which has allowed me to do hands-on, experience-based archaeological research. This is an exciting experience where I'm learning how public archaeology functions in the U.S., and it has allowed me to meet many amazing people working in this field.

The methods I have been learning are applicable across the world, and thus the work I have been doing in Hawaii is preparing me for my own doctoral research in Japan.

Even while working, I have continued to pursue my academic endeavors. Top among these is my upcoming participation in the Society of East Asian Archaeology conference, which is being held online this year. And although my timeline for departure to Japan remains unsettled, I am excited to begin my research and am eagerly awaiting my departure.



Christopher Molina (2021-2022) writes: Working at the computer this spring, I grew increasingly aware of the four walls cornering my

hybrid office-bedroom-personal gym nestled on the 9th floor of Hale Manoa. But a number of happy events promised better things to come!

With the help of Japan Studies Librarian Tokiko Bazzell, three Japanese-language books on composer Toru Takemitsu arrived via interlibrary loan, in spite of the Covid freeze. These books will inform my thesis on Takemitsu's late works for orchestra and concerto soloist.

Also, thanks to American Studies Professor Mari Yoshihara, I was able to contact all three

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Alumni Updates



Robert Oda (2018-2020) Assistant Professor, Keio University School of Medicine, Department of Pharmacology writes: I am fully vaccinated (actually I was the first in my lab to get the shot)! It's been a real breath of fresh air knowing that I don't have to worry about getting infected as much since I am protected.

On the research side of things I am finishing up my first manuscript here at Keio and am starting to work on project 2. Hopefully we can get this work published so that I can share with you what we've been up to as soon as possible!

Work has been really busy with the new school year; we also got a bunch of new faces in the lab since some members graduated and some new members joined us recently. We have a new master's student in our lab who I am going to teach how to use the Raman microscope this month.



Robby, sixth from left in middle row, with his lab-mates at Keio.



Junichi Yagi (2016-2018): From April 2021, **Junichi** started teaching four basic English courses at Kindai University in Osaka.

Junichi also defended his prospectus manuscripts earlier this year and he will be finishing up the rest of his dissertation remotely from Japan.

The CPASF *Scholar Update* is published on a quarterly basis. Please email updates and photos to: myokomichi@jashawaii.org.

Waiting to Depart for Japan

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authors, who expressed a willingness to critique my Takemitsu analysis next year. As I look forward to the easing of travel restrictions to Japan – hoping for a safe Olympics as a prerequisite – my network of academic contacts in Tokyo is growing.

Meanwhile our UH music faculty succeeded famously in adapting to YouTube a full season of concerts — including performances of the shakuhachi duo “Loons” with Christopher Yohmei Blasdel, a premiere of my own duo with Korean gayageum player Hae In Lee, and an exciting new composition for shakuhachi and the faculty string quartet by my friend Rafael Borges Amaral.

This, together with remote collaborations in Tokyo, Seoul, Shanghai, Boulder CO and Boston MA made for a productive Spring. It was such a pleasure to perform again!

Now vaccinated, I am nearing the end of a cross-country road trip: starting with family in Phoenix, ending with family in Boston, and exploring all the national parks in between. I write to you from Seneca Falls by the Finger Lakes in upstate New York, having hiked, swum and camped in Utah, Colorado, South Dakota and Michigan. I fly back to Honolulu at the end of August, hoping to continue on to Tokyo sometime this Fall.



Final Update—Summer 2021

Hiroko Saito (2019-2021) writes: When I arrived here two years ago in the Summer of 2019, I planned to return to Japan in Summer 2021 when I would finish most of my coursework. While I could accumulate enough credits to progress to the next step of my doctoral program, the situation regarding COVID-19 in Japan didn’t allow me to return home. Although I still held out hope of returning home, by May 2021, I finally decided to just stay in Hawaii during the Summer. I hope I can see my family and friends this Winter or the next Summer.

Yet, because of the pandemic, I was given a rare opportunity to experience a new type of conference online. About a half year ago, I applied to do a presentation at the Japanese Association for American Studies’ Conference happening in early June 2021. I believed that the situation would have settled down by then and I hoped to attend in-person in Japan. However, the status of the pandemic did not improve and they decided to have the conference virtually online. I then had to prepare for this very unusual form of presentation.

I needed to make a manuscript, a handout, and slides for my online presentation that required a lot of different methods from

preparing for an in-person conference. In addition, the condition of my computer and the environment of my apartment caused more difficulties. But, after everything, I did my presentation without much problems thanks to the great help of my friends and a professor of UH Manoa. Also, some professors in Japan kindly took time after the entire session and gave me helpful advice. I have no idea whether online presentations will be common after the pandemic or not, but this experience was an interesting and rare opportunity and may have been good practice for the future.

After four semesters of coursework, I am now gaining interest in the history and current issues of Okinawa and Hawaii in relation to the U.S. Before I came here, I’ve never thought that my research topic would be affected by the land I’m living on. Yet, this time in Hawaii has gradually made me understand how the indigenous and other local people feel about where they live and what the land-based problems mean to them. I still don’t know how, but I hope I can do something regarding Hawaii and Okinawa in my future research.



Completion of First-Year

Katsuhiko Kitada (2020-2022) writes from Japan: Although I was in Japan living far away from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Oahu due to the pandemic, the courses that I took in my first year provided me with insightful knowledge about Hawaii and unique experiences which I have never had.

The one thing that I was most impressed with was “diversity” in Hawaii. I knew that Hawaii was a place where people from around the world were constantly coming and going. Hawaii also has an indigenous language. However, it was really surprising that people living or studying in Hawaii truly appreciate those diverse cultures more than I imagined.

Moreover, a variety of languages have been coexisting in Hawaii, and people in Hawaii do not banish them from their communities. Instead, they respect them and live together harmoniously with them. Since I am from Japan, which was a typical monocultural and monolingual county, I was surprised that Hawaii and Japan are fundamentally different in this way. They, nevertheless, have a deep connection with each other.

This experience further enhanced my understanding of “Glocalization” which has gained much attention these days. Globalization has been a long-time key term to discuss any issues in society. However, we need to keep in mind that every single issue is always interwoven with local the community and its people.

As I have learned during the first year of my MA studies, we need to have both global and local perspectives for not only tackling current global issues but also living together in local communities. I am now really excited to gain further understanding of Glocalization and to start my research work in my second year at University of Hawaii at Manoa.



Katsuhiko in a limestone cave in Okinawa where he visited in Spring 2021.