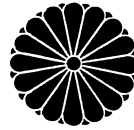


Scholar Update

Featuring our current and past scholars

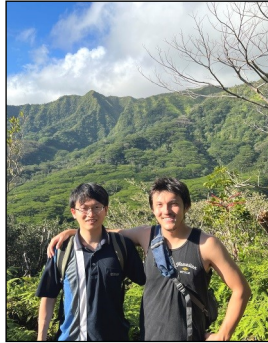


Crown Prince Akihito
Scholarship Foundation

Spring 2022 Edition

Similarities & Difference from My Visit Three Years Ago

Ryo Dobashi (2021-2023) writes: I arrived in Honolulu in August 2021. The last time I visited here was in 2018 as an exchange student, so about three years have passed since my last visit. There are several things that have changed and some things have remained the same.



Ryo pictured on the left.

Due to the effects of the pandemic, some classes and procedures have been held online. I have participated in eight classes since August, and five of them were conducted online. At present, University of Hawaii at Manoa encourages students who attend in-person classes to get booster shots. I received a booster shot in February 2022 at the university.

procedures which often takes time. Because of the kind and warm support from officers at UH Manoa and at JASH, I was able to get through these challenges.

The climate in Hawaii is warm and sunny, just the same as three years ago. Good weather in the morning refreshes my mind and encourages me to work harder. Since our laboratory is on the fifth floor, I can also enjoy beautiful scenery from the window.

The enthusiastic guidance from my supervisor hasn't changed either. He is now in Paris for a sabbatical, but he gives me guidance once a week via a regular meeting via Zoom. In addition, he allows me to contact him

I often need to make an appointment before visiting offices to do

Continued on Page 2

Chair's Message

It is refreshing during these chaotic times to reflect on the interesting work current and former CPASF scholars are engaged in. It is also instructive to remember that CPASF was established by people who lived through the era when Japan and the U.S. were at war. Thankfully, they had the vision to help strengthen the ties between Japan and the U.S.

The turmoil in the world also reminds us that it important to be prepared for times like these and while the investment portfolios have been affected, CPASF has structured its investments recognizing that markets are volatile and we continue to support our scholars as planned.

Allen B Uyeda

Towards the End but at the Beginning

Katsuhiko Kitada (2020-2022) writes, I finally arrived in Honolulu on January 10, 2022 after attending UH Manoa online courses from Japan for one-and-a-half years. I did not expect my MA program was going to be like this and to be honest, I felt depressed when I realized that the pandemic would initially prevent me from arriving in Hawaii.



Katsuhiko pictured on the left.

However, once online classes began, I found myself really enjoying the online courses and felt that this experience would still be definitely meaningful to me. Although it is true that I had some difficulty attending

online courses because of the time difference between Hawaii and Japan and also managing the amount of assignments, I was able to persevere with support from my professors, friends, CPASF staff, and my family. I cannot stress their importance to me enough and I wish to express my gratitude to them here.

In this first semester for in-person classes at UH Manoa, which is also the last semester for me, I am taking two in-person courses and one online course, and working on my Scholarly Paper (SP) for graduation. All three courses are exciting to me but I especially like the in-person seminar course which focuses on second-language teacher-education. I have also already built special relationships with several seminar members and I am confident that the bonds will last even after my MA program ends. While the courses give me fruitful opportunities to have amazing discussions with course

members while gaining insightful knowledge, it has been also quite inspiring for me to work on my SP. My SP analyzes how English loan words are used in political debates in Japan. Although writing the SP is more difficult and is taking longer than I thought it would, I am really enjoying it. I also appreciate help from my professor and from friends who give me thoughtful feedback for my project.

Although the current MA program is going to finish in May 2022, it will not be the end of my journey. Rather, I feel that it is going to be the beginning of the next chapter in my life. I have experienced a lot of valuable lessons in this two-year MA program. So, it will soon be the time to leave the community that I belong to and the people that I have met along the way. And it will also be time to give something back to everyone who has helped me so much during the last two years.

Ryo Dobashi

Continued from Page 1

any time, so I am continually learning from him.

In May 2022, I will attend a symposium in the United Kingdom to present our findings. In June–July and August 2022, I will participate in gas exchange observation at the Baltic Sea in Germany and Kaneohe Bay in Hawaii, respectively.

I also enjoy spending time with my friends. We went to the Lower and Upper Waimano Trails for hiking. Beautiful scenery from the trails really impressed me.

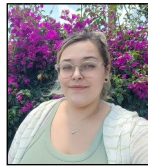
New Japan Scholar Selected



Taiki Sano (2022-2024) received his BA in American Studies from the University of Tokyo and is currently an MA candidate at the same university.

He will enter the PhD program in anthropology at the University of Hawaii - Manoa in Fall 2022. His current research interests include gender, sexuality, race, food, and illnesses. At UH Manoa, he aspires to delve into the complexities of eating disorders.

Shuri Castle, Okinawa—Dissertation Research Site



Leah Wasil (2019-2020) writes: While I have continued to gain archaeological field experience by working in public archaeology here in Hawaii, this spring has also brought a lot of exciting development for me. One is that I have officially passed my dissertation proposal defense and thus now have the “all-but-dissertation” (ABD) status within the University of Hawaii (UH)!

In addition to this, I have narrowed down the research site for my doctoral work with the aid of my advisor, committee, and visiting Japanese scholars. After some intense discussions and feedback from an ever-growing number of contacts in Japan, I have decided to select Shuri Castle in Okinawa as the prime location to conduct my dissertation fieldwork. I am incredibly excited to be able to work at this site since it has been a dream of mine to be able to study Shuri Castle and its legacy!

One of the unique situations that has led me to decide to work with Shuri

Castle is that there is a large and thriving Okinawan diaspora in Hawaii. After consulting with a visiting Okinawan student and the diasporic members here, it appears that there is a lot of support for more research on Shuri Castle. There is interest for more research to be conducted on Shuri Castle as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as what it means to individuals both domestically and internationally. This interest has been heightened recently after the fire occurred at Shuri Castle in 2019 and with the reconstruction work.

With the Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival—a uniquely Okinawan festival held every 5 years—scheduled for September-October this year, I feel that it is the right time for me to conduct my research in Okinawa.



As the world continues to open up and Japan lifts their restriction on research travel, I am more excited and looking forward to finally going to Japan. I am currently looking to depart for my field research by September 2022 with my eyes toward Okinawa!

Hybrid-Concert Tribute to Katsuya Yokoyama



Chris Molina (2020-2021) writes: While Covid-19 postponed this summer’s World Shakuhachi Festival in Shenzhen, I was able to join 53 members of my shakuhachi guild in a hybrid-concert tribute to our *iemoto*, Katsuya Yokoyama.

Videos of the main event at Sumida Triphony Hall in Tokyo, combined with overseas performances in Europe, Australia, NYC and Hawai’i

will go live on Youtube in mid-May 2022. For anyone interested, the Youtube channel is [KSK_chikushinkai](#).

Research visas for Japan are still on hold. So while I wait, I am buried in orchestral scores, analyzing concertos by composer Toru Takemitsu and writing up the analyses for my dissertation. Fingers crossed for 2023 in Tokyo!

Chris pictured on bottom right corner.

Innovation in International Education



James Parker (2022-2023) writes: I did a presentation entitled, “Innovation in International Education: Lessons from Non-Traditional Study Abroad Programming” at the

2022 Virtual NAFSA HiPac Spring Conference: Education, Advocate, Innovate with Peace & Aloha in late April 2022. I am also creating a completely virtual study abroad program for students to “virtually” travel to Japan this summer. I hope to depart for Japan in late 2022 or early 2023.

Final Oral Defense & New Position



Excerpts from an email message written to CPASF Chair Allen Uyeda in late March 2022 from **Jennifer Yoo** (2017-2018): Things are finally starting to warm up here in Massachusetts as the efforts towards achieving my PhD are coming to fruition.

It’s almost unreal and at the same time frightening to imagine what I have been working towards for nearly six years is finally coming to a close, but I’m also looking forward to the future.

After several years, I am scheduled to have the final oral defense for my doctoral dissertation on April 5, 2022. I wanted to thank you and the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation for all the support over the years. I would have not been able to get this far otherwise, nor would I have been able to achieve all that I was able to accomplish during my time in Japan with the Crown Prince Scholarship.

I’ve actually succeeded in getting a job as a part-time lecturer in Japanese culture, literature, and film at Tufts University which I’m scheduled to start in Fall 2022. So things will be pretty busy and exciting this summer.

Update: Congratulations to Jennifer for passing her dissertation defense on April 5, 2022!

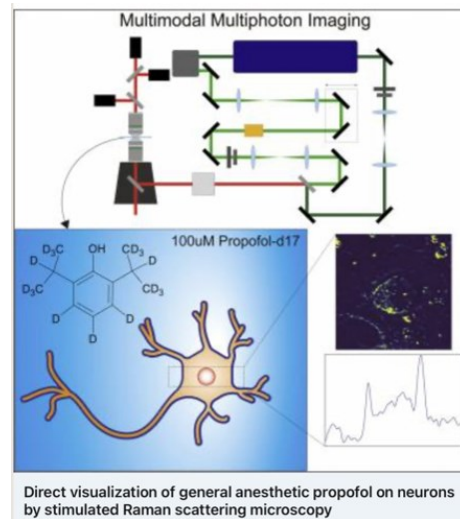
New Position at Chordia Therapeutics

Robert Oda (2018-2020) writes: Just wanted to provide an update on my life here in Japan. I recently accepted a job offer at a cancer drug startup called Chordia Therapeutics and will be starting in February 2022. They are a spin-off startup from Takeda Pharmaceuticals. I will be in charge of the discovery and pre-clinical research of new drugs to treat a variety of cancers.

Post from **Robert Oda**, Director, at Chordia Therapeutics.

Anesthesia is one of the most commonly used drugs in the world, yet its precise mode of action is still not well understood. I am pleased to share with everyone that the work we did at Keio University was published in iScience with Cell Press.

Here, we visualize the binding of a deuterated analogue of propofol to neurons directly and show the first images of direct propofol binding. This research shows that it is possible to study drug interactions of small molecules and can be adapted for other therapeutics in the future.



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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