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Welcome Luncheon



On September 21st, the Asian studies program sponsored a welcome luncheon for faculty, staff, and students at the Harusame Japanese Restaurant in South Orange. Over thirty-five people got a lot of fresh experiences from learning how to use chopsticks correctly to making new friends who also love Asian food and Asian culture. It was a wonderful start to the Fall 2018 semester. The Asian studies program welcome your participation and new liveliness.

Welcome from the Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures



Fall 2018 was a tough semester but ended with some memorable moments. First, the 6th K-12 Chinese-language Teachers Roundtable was a great success, not only offering a forum for insightful discussion on interesting issues but also the return of Asian Studies alumni coming home. Over the Thanksgiving break, some Chinese graduate students came to my home, celebrating Thanksgiving together. We had a great time together, eating turkey, having conversations, and playing Ping Pong. In December, participants of the SHU study abroad in China Program had a wonderful reunion. Meanwhile, some students have applied for scholarships successfully. Such as Brent G Findon, an Asian Studies and Diplomacy dual-degree major in SHU, started studying at Jinlin University on the Chinese Government Scholarship. By the way, we are now accepting applications for Chinese Government Scholarship for the academic year of 2019-2010 and deadline is March 25, 2019.

A Message from the Director of Graduate Studies



Welcome to the Fall 2018 edition of the Asian Voice, our program's bi-annual newsletter. This year's fall has been portrait beautiful colors on SHU campus and in mountains. The most notable events were held at the international month and multicultural film festival in October. Through these events, students and members of the Seton Hall community had an opportunity to take part in cultural experiences as well as intellectual dialogues on current global issues between Asia and the US. I encourage students to take advantage of these many wonderful events that Seton Hall offers. These activities have also raised awareness about uniqueness of Asia and promote mutual understanding to be a global citizen. In addition to the campus events, our students have also a chance to participate the faculty-led abroad programs to China and Japan. Let's take many golden opportunities.

Remarks from the Undergraduate Advisor of the Asian Studies Program



Hello students, and welcome to the new semester. Although summer vacation seems like a long way away, now is the time to start thinking about summer plans. Have you ever considered studying abroad in China or Japan? This summer is the perfect opportunity to do so. Nothing makes your Mandarin or Japanese language learning come alive, or deepens your understanding of Asian culture, as much as studying abroad. And this summer only, there is a 50% discount on tuition for SHU study abroad programs, so now is the time to do it. Ask your professors about how to apply, and before you know it you could be exploring the ancient remains of the Chinese imperial capital Xi'an or the vibrant streets of the futuristic Japanese capital Tokyo! In the meantime, be sure to take advantage of all of the Asian Studies events here on campus, such as International Month, Chinese New Year, Japan Week, trips to New York City for China town tour and museum visits.

The Adventure of a Lifetime: Summer Study Abroad at Sophia University by Joshua Tang



Sitting tightly buckled in my window seat, flanked by a friendly Vietnamese couple in the aisle, my heart was beating like a kid in a candy shop as we drew closer to landing in Narita. As I stepped off the giant aircraft that had escorted me across the Pacific Ocean, I felt the fatigue of my long flight disappear as excitement gripped me. I was not disappointed. During my relatively short stay, I was able to explore a nation and a culture that was more than I had ever imagined. Enjoying classes with brilliant faculty at Sophia University I was able to learn about Japan academically, and benefitting from ample time to explore for myself, I was able to see what I was learning first hand. Day after day came new people, places, and experiences. Not only limited to Tokyo, but the program also took us out of the city every weekend to see parts of Japan often kept secret from the rest of the world. Despite any inhibitions I had prior to deciding to go on the trip, I found Japan to be more memorable and more life-changing than anything I could've imagined. What I thought would be a simple excursion overseas, the friends I've made and the experiences I've had go beyond my expectations and will stay with me for a lifetime. I find myself yearning to return and recommend Japan to anyone who would hope to go.

A field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art by Jeffrey Rice

This fall semester, graduate students in the Foundations of Chinese Civilization" course had an extra special field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Not only did we have the opportunity to view ancient jades, bronzes, and ceramics from the Han dynasty and earlier, we were fortunate to be joined by an honored guest. Former Dartmouth Professor John Major, an expert on early Chinese archaeology and co-author of our textbook *Ancient China: A History*, joined us on our tour of the collection and shared his wisdom and expertise. A great time was had by all.



Understanding Japanese Teas by Ciana Vrtikapa



On October 9th, Doctor Shigeru Osuka brought a little bit of Japan to the Seton Hall Community. Different teas were presented and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in attendance. The presentation showcased areas in Japan that are known for Tea Production. These areas included the Shizuoka Prefecture which provide around 40% of the country's tea, Uji in the Kyoto Prefecture, and the Saitama prefecture. Six types of tea were highlighted and offered for the students to taste. Matcha, a vivid green tea made with high-quality leaves that are partially grown in the shade and processed into a fine powder has a slight bitter taste. Hojicha, a roasted green tea that has a reddish-brown color once brewed and has a mild taste. Sencha is the most common type of green tea and is enjoyed by people across the globe. Genmaicha, a roasted green tea with popped brown rice has a more earthy flavor and cheaper to produce. However, different green teas weren't the only delicious teas to be offered. Sakura-cha made by preserving cherry blossoms in salt and plum vinegar is often served at special occasions. Shiitake-cha is a tea made from shiitake mushrooms. Each of these teas had a beautiful and unique taste that pleased everyone and unique experienced!

The Art of Japanese Calligraphy by Nadia Meshkati

Back straight, feet flat on the ground, brush pointed downward. These are only a few of the rules in *shodou* (書道), or Japanese calligraphy. These are also some of the rules that Seton Hall University students were taught by Professor Hiroko Ishikawa, Japanese language program, at the Japanese Calligraphy Workshop on October 18th during International Month. With a sheet of *Hanshi* rice paper in front and a *Fude* brush just dipped in *Sumi* ink in one hand, students were given systematic instructions on how to write the kanji character for *Aki*, or autumn. Professor Ishikawa gave helpful directions. Students were able to practice the kanji character as many times as needed before creating their final piece. The art of Japanese calligraphy is one that requires much practice. Whether it be to repeat the various strokes or to even train on the pressure applied to the paper. Nonetheless, it is a form of art that requires much focus and attention to minute movements. With continued practice, students may be able to create calligraphy that possesses rhythm, aesthetic, and beauty. Although this may take years to accomplish, there is no better time to start than now. Finally, all participants made own final mater piece by putting the own art in calligraphy frame.



2018 Chinese Teacher Roundtable by Li Kang



The 6th Annual K-12 Chinese Language Teachers Roundtable Conference sponsored by Seton Hall University and the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation (NJCCSF) was hosted at McNulty Hall on November 3rd. The event attracted over 50 students and teachers who came from more than 20 schools on the East Coast including New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Washington DC. There were eight presenters from the front lines of teaching K-12. On one hand, they shared the problems, difficulties, and challenges they face while teaching K-12, and on the other hand, they also introduced solutions and methods to handle these issues, which resonated with many listeners. Teachers use various aids to help their students engage and get involved in classroom activities. Although these “aids” can be dangerous especially for younger kids who can not distinguish what is edible or not, Ms. Liao, a Chinese teacher from Old Bridge Township does not worry about this issue because she makes her classroom aids edible. She brought colorful play dough made from flour, oil, and vegetables to the conference. It’s not for eating, but it is completely safe for young children. At the end of her presentation, she shared the recipe for the edible play dough with the audience and many listeners said they

were interested in trying the technique in the future. Di Chen, one of Seton Hall’s graduate students and an aspiring teacher, was impressed by Dr. Tong’s presentation on communication that extends beyond the classroom. “The most valuable point for me was the point about communication with parents. He told us some very useful ways of communicating, like etiquette for email rules we can make before class.” Dr. Tong considers students, parents, administration officials, and peers as four constituent keys to the wellbeing of US public schools. He then gave the audience practical suggestions such as how to deal with “angry emails” from parents and how to be successful with teaching students. Dr. Tong is a chemistry teacher, but his suggestions are universal and helpful for all teachers and those who aspire to teach in American public schools. At noon, participants had the chance to get to know each other at the Seton Hall Bishop Dougherty University Center over lunch and a discussion of the morning’s topics. “It’s a great chance to learn from other teachers and I will come to this conference again next year” said a Chinese teacher who works in New York.

Chinese Calligraphy Workshop by Yunfei Wang



On October 24, 2018, in the Beck Room of the Walsh Library, the Chinese Calligraphy workshop released the magic of Chinese Calligraphy and gave students the opportunity to practice and showcase their own work. The workshop started with a 20-minute presentation by Dr. Petra Chu, who gave a brief background knowledge about Chinese Calligraphy introducing the culture, tradition, and the importance of having good handwriting for Chinese people. Professor Fang Yuan, a visiting scholar from China, gave the students a demonstration showing the correct way of writing Chinese characters with writing brushes. The program was hosted by Dr. Dongdong Chen, Department Chair of the Chinese program. The most exciting part, according to the participating students, was that they were given the actual writing brushes, ink, and paper to write their own piece of calligraphy. All students got a chance to practice their own work and a competition was given by the end. "It is a lot of fun. I really wish we could have more time to practice!", said a student from the Introductory Chinese class who participated in the workshop.

Three Tips for Learning Chinese by Ian Murphy



Becoming fluent in a foreign language requires patience and commitment, and while there are many methods of studying, the best way to succeed in and out of the classroom is to make friends with your TAs! Just like other academic resources on campus, your TAs are there to help, and often have a passion for guiding and meeting new students. Remember, your TAs have plenty in common with you, as you are both going through the college experience together. This makes TA sessions more relaxed and student-friendly. What's more, they not only knew the best Chinese restaurants in the area, but they encouraged me to learn the menu order wherever we went. This helped immensely in China... and when it comes to impressing the family back home. Second, explore the language. When it comes to learning any language at college, the courses create a basis of understanding to build off of. No professor expects students to remember every new word, but rather that they strive to use the language in and outside the classroom. Aside from core classes, explore the subjects you like in Chinese! There is something for everyone, from history to the sciences, for the diplomats of tomorrow to the

world's next novelists, and everyone in-between. The Chinese program provides excellent courses past Advanced Chinese which teach students how to branch out into their desired subjects from a Chinese perspective. Last but not least, visit China! There are opportunities for everyone. My first time in China, with Dr. Chen on June, provided me with a deeper understanding of Chinese culture and greater confidence in my Mandarin ability. The expense is not a barrier to China. There are programs such as NIYEP that are funded by the Chinese government. Don't be afraid to make your interest known and reach out to faculty and friends! Enjoy the journey!

A Message from the Editors

It's our great honor to edit the Seton Hall's Asian Voice and we hope you enjoy it. Any articles that were not included in this edition may be submitted for the Spring 2019 copy of the newsletter. Any Asia relevant events that students have coordinated with or participated in are welcome for submission, as articles are not solely limited to news or events held on the Seton Hall campus. And we want to say thank you to everyone who helped and supported Asian Studies Program because it is your efforts and attributions that make us become one of the indispensable parts of the Seton Hall community!

Join the Asian Culture Association

If you wish to join the Asian Culture Association, please contact Joshua Tan at Joshua.tan@student.shu.edu
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