

SETON HALL'S ASIAN VOICE

SPRING 2010

Dr. Edwin Pak-wah Leung, *Chair, Department of Asian Studies*
 Dr Shigeru Osuka, *Director, Graduate Studies*

Jesse J. Rosso, M.A. '11 *Co-editor*
 Sevan Simon, M.A. '11 *Co-editor*

Spring Welcome Message from the Department Chair



Welcome to this issue of our Department's Newsletter! The Department of Asian Studies at Seton Hall University offers a wide range of Asian language and area studies courses to our students as the University is developing towards a more globalized curriculum. All of

our faculty are dedicated to the goal of enriching our students' knowledge of the world in training them to become global servant-leaders. The Department also sponsors conferences to foster academic discussions, such as the MAR/AAS and CLTA-GNY conferences recently.

In addition, the Department, through its many

programs, sponsors a variety of cultural activities such as China Night, Japan Week, speech contests, and field trips. We believe it is important and necessary to supplement academic learning with cultural activities. And every summer, our faculty bring students to Asia on educational tours for cross-cultural understanding of Asia.

This issue's Newsletter records many of the activities described above. Thanks to the dedication of our faculty and support of our students and alumni, the Department of Asian Studies has expanded to become a large family. We extend our warm welcome to the readers to join us and to participate in our activities.

- Dr. Edwin Pak-wah Leung



ANNUAL AAS CONFERENCE IN PHILADELPHIA
 NANDOR FORGACH, MA '09.



MAR/AAS CONFERENCE AT VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
 DEVON A. CAHILL, MA '09.

Message from the Director of the Graduate Program

In spring 2010 semester, the graduate program has over 30 graduate students who are registered in graduate courses. We are encouraging graduate students to participate in academic conferences. Two recent alumni and two graduate students presented their research papers at the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies (MAR/AAS) Conference at Villanova University in October 2009, and in April 2010 one recent alumnus (currently working at the Department of State) presented

at the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference in Philadelphia. There were also many graduate students that have participated in academic conferences in the tri-states area as well as on SHU campus. The Asian Studies graduate program seeks to prepare students to strengthen their academic research skills and achieve their career goals.

- Dr. Shigeru Osuka

PAC Distinguished Guest Lecture on Linguistics by Dr. Mark Baker

In November 2009 the Department of Asian Studies in conjunction with the Walsh Library hosted a lecture by Dr. Mark C. Baker, a world-renowned linguist. Dr. Baker's presentation **Comparing Languages Similarities, Differences & Patterns** focused on the similarities and differences of languages.

By comparing and contrasting languages, in particular, Edo, English, Japanese, and Mohawk, Dr Baker demonstrated that while these languages are written and spoken very differently, the syntax and structure of the languages are actually similar. Dr. Baker illustrated the word order, particularly, the verb object constraint with the intention of de-

constructing those language structures members with respect to syntax and semantics.

Dr. Mark Baker's primary research interest is the syntax structures of non-Western, less studied language. Dr. Baker has spent time in Canada intensively studying the Mowhak language. Working within generative grammar, he has written several important books and articles about the formal analysis of polysynthetic languages. His most recent work is *The Syntax of Agreement and Concord* (2008).

Partial funding for this event was provided by the College of Arts and Sciences thanks to the generous support of the President's Advisory Council

Shengjie Lu, M.A. '11



PAC GUEST LECTURER, DR. MARK C. BAKER

Seton Hall China Night

On February 15, 2010 the Department of Asian Studies and the Chinese Students and Scholars Association presented **China Night** in the auditorium of Jubilee Hall.

This event commemorates the Chinese Lunar New Year, the year of the Tiger. The annual celebration, hosted by Shan

Li, **M.A. '11**, and James Flynn, **M.A. '11**, was a demonstration of the various talents of the Seton Hall student body. This included singing songs (in Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages), traditional dance, ballet, hip hop dance, a martial art demonstration and a game that included audience participation. The Sichuan Opera or "face changing" demonstration

was one of the many crowd pleasing moments of **China Night**

Rene M. Britton, **B.A. '13**, was impressed by the overall ability of the performers.

"I was really surprised at how much talent the performers had," Britton said. "It was

nice seeing my classmates perform."

China Night is one of the many institutions Department of the Asian Studies to promote language and culture study in addition to foster cross cultural understanding in the Seton Hall community.

Jesse J. Rosso, M.A. '11



CHINA NIGHT 2010

Guest Lecture by Seton Hall Alumnus

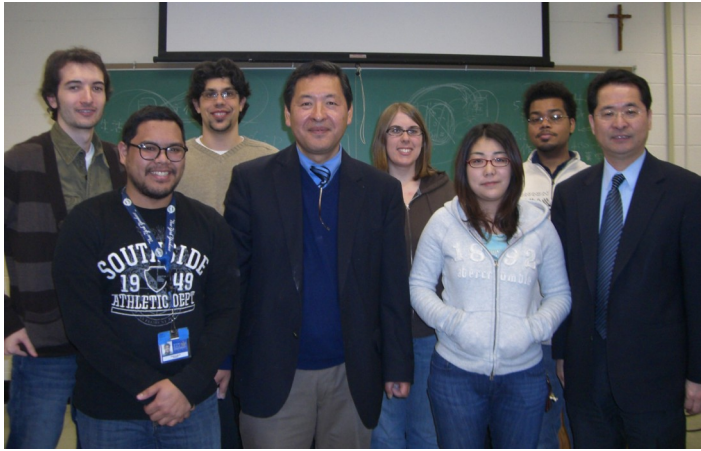


Seton Hall Alumnus Melvin Chih-Jen Lee, lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania, delivered a guest lecture on teaching Chinese Grammar on April 15th in Dr. Dong Chen's Teaching Methods for Chinese and Japanese class.

Dr. Yoshitomo Yamashita Delivers Guest

Dr. Yoshitomo Yamashita, who was recently awarded his PhD from the University of Arizona, delivered a guest lecture on linguistics and second language acquisition here at Seton Hall.

In his lecture, Dr. Yamashita described in detail what he called miscues. He explained that these miscues are what are often referred to as “misinterpretations” or “misunderstandings.” It is these miscues that hinder communication between native speakers and learners.



DR. YAMASHITA PRESENTED A GUEST LECTURE DURING THE GRADUATE STUDENT JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASS. THE LECTURE FOCUSED ON METHODS OF LEARNING JAPANESE VOCABULARY.

Furthermore, in addition to addressing this issue, Dr. Yamashita examined learning vocabulary implicitly. That is to say, rather than looking up individual words one by one in the dictionary, vocabulary should be learned through the context of the readings and conversations in and out of the classroom.

Although the examples given during the lecture were done so in the context of learning Japanese as a second language, the lessons learned can easily be applied to all learners of second languages.

The lecture was a worthwhile event that gave a new perspective on traditional the understanding of how languages are learned. It can serve to help students not only continue their own second language education, but also to enable them to be better language educators of their own in the future.

- Sevan Simon, M.A. '10

Join the Asian Studies Association

Please contact Jamie Kwai at kwaijami@shu.edu, or Dr. Dongdong Chen, advisor for the Asian Studies Association, at chendong@shu.edu if you wish to join the Asian Studies Association.

Seton Hall Celebrates Japan Week 2010

Japan week this year was marked by five days of events that centered on the study and promotion modern and traditional Japanese history and culture.

The week Began with an afternoon lecture on the rice culture of Japan by Professor Fumiko Bacon. In addition to explaining the deep rooted cultural and political significance of rice throughout Japanese history, Professor Bacon also offered a quick tutorial on how to make traditional Japanese rice balls (*onigiri*), after which students were allowed to try their hand at making the rice balls, and of course, eating them.

In addition to this lecture, a symposium was held where the graduate students in the Asian Studies department shared their most recent research on Japan, with topics ranging from politics to culture and Buddhism.

The symposium showcased the students' research to a group of their peers and experts in the field outside of a classroom setting. In addition to the student presentations, there were faculty commentators and a keynote speech by Iona College professor Yasuhiro Makimura on what Master's students can expect from PhD programs in the field.

The week concluded with an afternoon kite making and flying contest. Many entries were sub-



PROFESSOR FUMIKO BACON DEMONSTRATES HOW TO MAKE JAPANESE TRADITIONAL ONIGIRI RICE BALLS TO STUDENTS DURING HER RICE CULTURE EXHIBITION IN JAPAN WEEK 2010

mitted and a number of awards were handed out for various marks. These included the three highest flying kites, the biggest and smallest, and the most artistic. In an ironic twist, the weather seemed to toy with the participants, with fair breezes before and after the contest, but a relative calm during.

Overall it seemed that all who attended seemed to enjoy the respective events to which they went. With the ultimate goal of encouraging the further study of both traditional and modern Japanese culture, history and language, Japan week gave students and faculty alike to learn a little more about this global leader outside the classroom setting.

-Sevan Simon, M.A. '10



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DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN STUDIES

2009 Asian Studies Department Christmas Party



FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE DEPARTMENTAL CHRISTMAS PARTY.

To celebrate the end of a successful fall semester, the Asian Studies department held its annual Christmas party last December. Hosted by Professor Clair Diab, many faculty members and graduate students came to relax and have some fun before the winter vacation.

The dinner was pot-luck

with a plethora of delicious foods and drinks available. Dr. Shigeru Osuka's Chicken Curry was such a big hit, it was almost finished before the majority of attendees had even arrived.

In addition to unwinding after the semester's end, it was a great opportunity for the students and faculty to

get to know each other better outside of the classroom setting. If you are considering attending in December at the end of this year, however, be sure to arrive early. Especially if you would like to try the Chicken Curry.

- *Sevan Simon, M.A. '10*

Meet the Department of Asian Studies Faculty: Lawrence Driscoll



LAWRENCE DRISCOLL

I received a BA in Philosophy from Maryknoll College at Glen Elyn, Illinois. I then went on to an AAS in Automotive Technology, and BS in Technical Education, from State University of New York (SUNY) campuses. Finally, I obtained a MA in Asian Studies from Seton Hall University.

As a retired engineer from Toyota Motor USA, my primary area of research is Asia auto industry and the development of the auto industry in China. I am involved in helping business and individuals bridge the gap between the U.S. and East Asia cultures.

I have lived and traveled in

various countries throughout East Asia. I have had the privilege of teaching English in both Korea and China. I remain deeply interested in all aspects of East Asia.

- *Lawrence Driscoll*

Meet the Department of Asian Studies Faculty: Jennifer Wu



JENNIFER WU

I became a member of the Chinese program in the Department of Asian Studies in the fall '09 after I finished the graduate program in Seton Hall. I enjoy teaching intermediate level Chinese and love to promote the Chinese culture to American students.

My goal as a Chinese language

instructor is not only to let the students focus on the characters and grammar, but also to develop the students' love of language and to enhance their knowledge of the Chinese culture through language.

I feel truly grateful to the Chinese and culture teaching track program and the Department

of Asian Studies at Seton Hall. I would also like to specially thank Dr. Leung and Dr. Chen for their valuable advice, generous help and continuous support during the time I've spent in Seton Hall.

- *Jennifer Wu*

Social Networking meets the Department of Asian Studies

The Department of Asian Studies will soon have a place on the popular social networking website, Facebook. This page will provide announcements of events held by the department, local cultural festivals, conferences and museum exhibits pertaining to the field of Asian Studies.

*For more information please contact website moderator Dr. Michael Linderman
michael.linderman@shu.edu*