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# WCU Japanese Program Newsletter

## Welcome! Motohashi Sensei

こんにちは。My name is Soichiro Motohashi. I started teaching as an instructor in the Japanese program of the department of World Languages this August. I currently teach language courses including JPN101 and JPN231. Moreover, I teach a freshman seminar course called **JPN190: Introduction to Pop Culture in Japan**, which is the first content course for me to teach at the university level. In this course, we discuss various aspects of Japanese society and culture from well-known pop culture like fashion, entertainment and sports to more social topics like language, family-relationship, food, and school and work environment. Also, they have enjoyed several cultural experience activities including a chopsticks competition and an emoji/emoticon contest. **In my class, I encourage the students to be independent and gain social skills as well as language and cultural competence.** I believe that these skills are necessary even after they graduate from WCU in order to become successful individuals. Last, I hope to grow our community with the students and Ono sensei. どうぞよろしくおねがいします！



Mt. Fuji All Stars

## Motohashi Sensei Loves Soccer!



Mt. Fuji All Stars T-shirt



I started a soccer team called Mt. Fuji All Stars with the students in the Japanese program this semester. The slogan of our team is “**We never stop, we never quit!**” We played 3 regular season games and a play-off game in the intramural soccer league on campus for the season. We will also participate in the co-ed soccer league next year. Please join us if you’re interested! **Contact me at [smotohashi@wcu.edu](mailto:smotohashi@wcu.edu).**



## 遠足: JPN Program Field Trip

### Japan Festa at Atlanta Sep 18, Sun

We took a field trip to the Japan Fest in Atlanta, Georgia on 9/18 (Sun). It is the biggest Japanese festival in the South East and over 20,000 people enjoy the cultural experience every year. Most of the students I took had never seen Japanese culture in person before, so it was a great opportunity for them to learn Japan through its authentic food, performing arts, and products.



## 友だち: JPN Program Friendship Event

### Japanese Curry Party Oct 9, Sun

Megan Gill; volunteer, major in International studies, minor in Leadership and Japanese.



We held a Japanese curry party in the picnic area on 10/9 (Sun). During the curry party, over fifty people enjoyed delicious and authentic Japanese food. We tasted three different types of curry: beef, vegetable and chicken. The chicken curry was a big hit with most of the students! Then we played volleyball and soccer. It was great to be able to hang out with the other students that are studying Japanese, as well as to meet some of the international students!





## Welcome back from Japan! Ms. Shahidha Uthman

### 1. Would you please introduce yourself including your major and minor?



My name is Shahidah Uthman, a Japanese major and International Studies minor from Columbia, South Carolina. Now into my senior year. I don't do much on campus other than sports, particularly Volleyball. However, in my earlier years I was president of the Japanese Language and Culture Table as well as president of the student programming board LMP.

### 2. You studied Japanese in major and International studies in minor. Why did you choose this combination?

Initially, my major was Forensic Chemistry and a minor in Japanese, so the reason I chose Western to study was due to its forensic program. However, after years of studying Japanese and simply falling in love with languages in general, I changed my major to as what was stated above. My main motivation for studying Japanese is because I really enjoy learning different languages and plan to become multilingual.

### 3. Would you please tell us how your study-abroad experience was in Japan? How did you spend your time when you were not doing school-related activities there?

This past year I had participated in a study abroad program to Chukyo University in Nagoya, Japan. My time there was something that is hard to explain. **Only a month into the program and I knew that I would be returning to Japan to work, and maybe even live.** While culture-wise things were different from America, the quality time you spent with friends never changed. While there were other exchange students participating from other American schools, I didn't really connect with most of them as I did to the Japanese students. The main thing to do was Karaoke, which I did much of, and going out to eat; mainly sushi or Yakiniku.

### 4. Would you please tell us how you are planning to use your Japanese language fluency and its cultural literacy for your future?

With my Japanese language ability I wish to use it to either teach Japanese, or teach English to Japanese speakers.

### 5. Any crucial advice for the students in JPN program?

To students planning to participate in the Japanese program and study abroad I would say; **don't be afraid to try new things, and when you are there put yourself out there.** People are nice, and will be willing to help you. So there is no need to feel afraid or alone while in Japan.

### 6. As your closing statement, what would you like to tell the students in WCU in general?

In closing, **I would encourage all WCU students, if given the chance, to study abroad. Even if you don't choose Japan to study, just having the experience of a different culture is priceless.**

## Welcome to WCU from Japan! Ms. Miku Yamamoto

Miku is one of 11 Japanese international students in WCU this year!



Folkmoor: Middle Eastern Friendship Dinner on Sep 30

**My wedding with my parents.**



My birthday with Chukyo Univ baseball club.

### 1. Would you please introduce yourself?

My name is Miku Yamamoto, and I am from Toyota City Japan. I am running a restaurant especially for the athletes. We serve 100 to 250 athletes per day. Our main customers are Chukyo University baseball club, Toyota Motor Corporation baseball team and women's softball team. **I enjoy my job and take a great deal of pride in being able to support these top athletes by offering a balanced diet.** However, my dream is to expand my restaurant into a total athletic spa facility, including space for exercise, nutritious training meals, sports massage and of course a Japanese bath. This will become a “charging spot” for my customers and enhance their performance.

### 2. Would you please tell us about your motivation to study English at WCU?

I believe all of the services my restaurant offers needs to meet standards of the athletes I support, as they will be competing internationally. **I am convinced that learning English and having an intercultural experience in the US will give me an opportunity to get closer to realizing my dream.**



### 3. Would you please tell us how you are planning to use your English fluency and American cultural literacy? Would you please tell us your future plan after WCU?

I am planning to be a part of the supporting team Toyota and Chukyo University when the top athlete among our athletes goes to independent training to the US. I would like to see athletes and what kind of facilities there are to support them in the US, a leading country for sports. **In order to make my restaurant even better, I would like to talk about sports with top athletes all over the world. I would like to make my restaurant available for athletes overseas to enhance international communication.** I look forward to meeting new people.



### 4. Any crucial advice for the students in JPN program?

I like Japan and hope you do, too. **Study hard every day** so that you can communicate and learn more about Japanese culture!

### 5. As your closing statement, what would you like to tell the students in WCU in general?

**I am happy to be here in the US. Always try your hardest to learn. Don't be afraid of making a mistake and to bring the best result in the wake of failure. I think “Life is an adventure”.**

**FRESHMAN**

## Welcome to WCU!

### Mr. Logan Bissette

1. Would you please introduce yourself including your major and minor?

Hello! My name is Logan Bissette. I am from Bailey, NC, and I am a freshman at WCU. Currently **I have a minor in Japanese and major in Marketing, but my goal when I graduate from college is to go into translation/localization.**

2. Would you please tell us about your motivation to study Japanese?



My first experience with Japanese culture, besides Pokemon, was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. A friend showed me a rhythm game on her phone with the Vocaloid, **Hatsune Miku**, and recommended me some anime. When I got into high school I took 2 Japanese language classes that also worked as a culture class and I kept researching culture outside of the class.

**Language wise**, I like the fixed honorific system used in Japanese, although it is a little difficult to understand sometimes since it's so different from English manners. An

interesting aspect is the Godandoshi verb conjugation, changing the verbs based on how it is used. **Culture wise**, ever since I was little I had always admired the traditional art style when there was a history lesson in Japan, and if I ever got a notebook I would look for **The Great Wave off Kanagawa**. I just really like the music and art there.



3. Would you please tell us how you are planning to use your Japanese language fluency and its cultural literacy for your future?

In the short term of learning the culture and language **I would like to be able to visit Japan or take my parents with me for a few weeks without assistance of another human**. I also want to be able to translate small things like songs, and understand each line. For long-term goals **I want to become an interpreter for speakers at press conferences or translate shows and video games into English as a career**.

**I have high hopes for what I'm planning to get out of the Japanese program. I think Western was a great choice for me wanting to study Japanese.** I expect to get a firm grasp on the Japanese language (mostly grammar) and only have to look up new kanji after I get out. Culturally **I hope I understand the manners for different settings like work, school, and out in public**. I might even learn some calligraphy here if I ever learn to write with my right hand.



## Cultural Etiquette Dinner on Nov 7, Mon, 6-8 pm @ UC Grand room

"The Center for Career and Professional Development is hosting our annual Etiquette Dinner!!

This year to incorporate skill development for cultural responsiveness in the workplace the event will feature lessons on Professional Etiquette in a dining environment and will focus on various cultural aspects of **Middle Eastern, Japanese, African and Latin American food and culture**. Tickets are \$30.00 per student and covers a 3 course meal and attendance at the event. Students can purchase tickets from the Center for Career and Professional Development in the Reid Building Room 150! **The event will be held Monday, November 7th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm in the University Commons Grand Room.**"

Theresa Cruz Paul, Director, Center for Career and professional Development

828-227-3812. [tcpaul@wcu.edu](mailto:tcpaul@wcu.edu)

## WCU JPN Program page on Facebook!



The Japanese program recently launched its official program page on Facebook. Please visit the Facebook page by typing the code "wcujpn" and hit "like" so that you will receive the program's updates and news!

## Japanese Community Course Konnichiwa! : Conversational Japanese

Konnichiwa!: Conversational Japanese is a 5-week conversational Japanese course where students will focus on learning basic communication, vocabulary, and cultural aspects to use for everyday life in Japan. It doesn't matter if you have never taken Japanese or any other language courses before enrolling in this course. Whatever the reason that you are interested in conversational Japanese and Japanese culture, you will have a fun in this course. You will learn to greet, introduce yourself, and ask questions in Japanese. **Feb 22 - Mar 29, 2017 (No class on Mar 8)**

**Wednesday Nights | 6pm to 7pm | \$79.00**

**Room 143, Cordelia Camp Building**

**Course Registration: TBA**



**New Course in Spring 2017**

## JPN393 Going Global: Language, Culture, and Business

The Japanese program offers a new course in Spring 2017. The course title is "Going Global" and the main focus of the course is to provide the students to gain their knowledge on language, culture, and business between Japan and the U.S. **Please contact Motohashi sensei ([smotohashi@wcu.edu](mailto:smotohashi@wcu.edu)) for the prerequisites and selection process including a face-to-face interview to be enrolled in the course.**

### FALL 2016

### 2016-2017

JPN101-01, 02, 03, & 04: Beginning Japanese 1

JPN231: Intermediate Japanese 1

JPN301: Third Year Japanese 1

JPN190: Introduction to Japanese Pop Culture

JPN305: Introduction to Japanese Literature in Translation

JPN451: Advanced Grammar: JLPT Prep

### SPRING 2017

JPN101-01, & 02: Beginning Japanese 1

JPN102-01, & 02: Beginning Japanese 2

JPN232: Intermediate Japanese 2

JPN302: Third Year Japanese 2 at UNCW through World Language Exchange

JPN306: Manga, Anime, & Japan

**JPN393: Going Global: Language, Culture, & Business**

JPN452: Advanced Conversation: OPI Prep

### SUMMER 2017

JPN493: Summer Travel Course in Japan: Japanology: Beyond Borders