

## 2016 World Languages Poetry Reading, Feb 10 by Instructor of Spanish, Mr. Garrett Fisher

Students from Japanese Calligraphy course read love haiku at the Poetry Reading event. They were by famous Japanese poets and very beautiful. Students wrote the haiku using calligraphy brush and presented them on stage. There were also poems written in Spanish, French and other languages presented. There were more than 50 people attended the event, and it was very successful!



## 2016 Japanese Speech Contest

Students from JPN232 attended the Japanese speech contest held in Atlanta on Mar 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Kristin Pflug** "Japan and Me"  
**James Landolf** "Japanese and Me"  
**Rebecca Olson** "My Trip to Nagoya"



**Congratulations!!**

**N5:**

Ms. Brandee Harris

Ms. Sarah McCall

**N4:**

Mr. Kyle Serio

**N3:**

Mr. Devin Bartlett

## Results of JLPT (N5 through N1)

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is "a test to measure and certify the Japanese-language proficiency of those whose native language is not Japanese. It has become the largest Japanese-language test in the world." There is only one chance a year to take the test in the US, which is in December. The JLPT assesses reading, writing and listening skills, so to test Japanese-speaking skills, we utilize the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) by ACTFL. **JPN451: Advanced Grammar** offered this fall is designed for the JLPT test and it is a requirement for students to take it. This year, four students have passed the level N5, N4, and N3. "N4 and N5 measure the level of understanding of basic Japanese mainly learned in class. N1 and N2 measure the level of understanding of Japanese used in a broad range of scenes in actual everyday life. N3 is a bridging level between N1/N2 and N4/N5."

<http://www.jlpt.jp/e/>

Check out my website!!!

<http://www.gyamazawa.com/>



## A Famous Japanese Poet Came to Western!

G. Yamazawa, a famous Japanese poet came to campus on Feb 29<sup>th</sup>. Yamazawa was born and grew up in Durham, NC. He has been working as a poet and rapper and is on tour right now. Many students from the Japanese program attended and had opportunities to talk to him after the event. It was a very exciting event!



### Fall 2015

JPN101: Elementary Japanese 1

JPN231: Second-Year Japanese 1

**JPN301: Hybrid course through WLE from WCU  
Third-Year Japanese 1**

JPN307: Japanese Language in Cinema

JPN451: Advanced Grammar: JLPT  
(Japanese Language Proficiency Test) prep

### Spring 2016

JPN101: Elementary Japanese 1

JPN102: Elementary Japanese 2

JPN232: Second-Year Japanese 2

**JPN302: Hybrid course through WLE from UNCW  
Third-Year Japanese 2**

JPN393: Japanese Calligraphy

JPN451: Advanced Conversation: OPI  
(Oral Proficiency Interview) Prep

### Summer 2016

JPN393: Summer Travel Course:  
Japanology: Beyond Borders.

## Hybrid Course Offered in 2015-2016

Besides the courses offered regularly, we have started offering an online/face-to-face hybrid course in fall 2015 for the first time. WCU and UNC-Wilmington started collaborating through the NC World Language Exchange Online System. JPN301 has been taught at WCU during fall 2015 and JPN302 is offered at UNCW spring 2016, while anyone in the UNC system can take it online. This is the first time to offer Japanese courses in the online system. Due to the collaboration, **we are pleased to announce that a Japanese Minor has become available at UNCW**. WCU and UNCW will make continuous efforts to collaborate in order to augment small JPN programs throughout the system in order to foster students' better learning outcomes, including 200 & 400 level courses.

## Undergraduate Expo Mar 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>

Students from Japanese Calligraphy course will be presenting their work "Past, Present and Future Vol. 4" at Ramsey Center on Mar 30<sup>th</sup>, Wed from 6 to 7:30pm. Please come see their work!)

## International Festival Apr 13<sup>th</sup>

There will be origami and calligraphy work shops! If you are interested in Japanese and Japanese culture, this will be a great opportunity. Please come see



# WCU Student in Japan: Kelvin Riley

## 1. Would you please introduce yourself?

Hello. My name is Kelvin Riley. I am a fourth year student and I'm currently doing major in dual language studies, Japanese and Spanish at WCU. My primary Studies are **Japanese** and **Spanish**, and my secondary studies are **Mathematics** and **Computer Science**. This year I am participating in a bilateral exchange with Chukyo University in Japan.

## 2. You study Japanese, Spanish, Mathematics, and Computer Science. Why did you choose this combination?

I was originally studying math/computer science until I took a couple Japanese courses, which I enjoyed very much. After taking a few courses, I decided to swap my majors and minor. I also picked up Spanish because I had been slightly familiar with it, and it would help me complete my special studies.

## 3. Please tell us about your study-abroad experience in Japan.

My study abroad experience is wonderful. I have learned so much more Japanese in the short time I've been here. Experiencing a culture so different is spectacular. I would absolutely recommend studying abroad for anyone who is apprehensive about it.

## 4. How do you spend your time when you are not doing school-related activities in Japan?

I usually play with several international sports groups, go to karaoke, hang out with other exchange students or Japanese people, or find cultural events to go.

## 5. Would you please tell us how you plan to use your Japanese language skills and Japanese cultural literacy after coming back to the U.S.?

After being in Japan I definitely would like to return to improve my Japanese further, so I was thinking about trying to return as an assistant language teacher for a short time. As for the term, I'm still unsure of what I want to do.



# WCU JPN Program Alumni: Philip Warner

## 1. Would you please introduce yourself?



My name is Philip Warner, a Japanese Special Studies major with a minor in Computer Information Systems, and I graduated December 2015. I have a one-year contract with the RCS Corporation in Saitama Japan as an assistant English teacher helping students to improve their English skills. After a couple of weeks training in Japan, I will begin working in April.

## 2. You studied Japanese and Computer Information System (CIS). Why did you choose this combination?

After graduating from SCC with a degree in computer engineering, I decided to continue my education at WCU. Initially my major was CIS with a minor in business. My friends had just gotten back from Japan and convinced me to take a Japanese class. After taking the class, Takeda Sensei encouraged me to major in Japanese. I changed my minor to CIS because I still have a passion for computers and those skills are always useful no matter where I go. My second semester was filled with nothing but Japanese classes. I really enjoyed the classes and it was my favorite semester at WCU.

During that semester I became close friends with the exchange students from Japan, and I decided to go to Japan. I grew up here in the mountains and the idea of going to another country often crossed my mind. I jumped at the opportunity to go to Japan, and I am very thankful I did.

## 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?

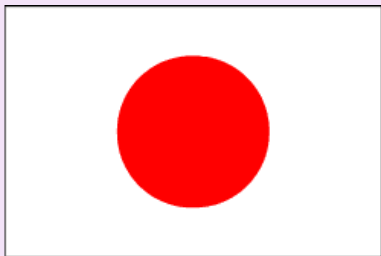
I really enjoyed my study-abroad experience in Japan, so much that I'm going back to live and work. I learned a lot from the time there, I made so many friends, and I highly recommend it. I took folklore and culture experience classes to discover the differences between America and Japan. I joined groups on campus that had parties and events where I met a lot of students. Outside of school, I explored some parts of Tokyo. I also met a lot of people through events such as Dodgeball Friendship Club that played every Monday. Through this group I made lots of friends that come from all over the world. I met a few Japanese friends that wanted to help teach me about Japan and Japanese outside of school which is where I learned the most because it was fun.

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

I plan on using my Japanese language fluency and cultural literacy to make more friends and acquaintances in Japan. I want to better understand Japan and Japanese because I want to be able to give back to the Japanese people for being so kind and patient with me. I hope to one day be fluent enough in Japanese to work for a company called Square Enix as a computer technician. I have a passion for electronics and it would be thrilling to work in Tokyo's electric town district. Square Enix is a company that started in Japan making games and has been part of my life since I was a kid. It would be a dream come true to give back to the company that gave me so many good memories growing up. Until I become more fluent I want to help people learn English as I learn more Japanese, as well as help spread the knowledge of my home culture.

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

Learning Japanese can be hard and stressful, but through my experience I made a lot of friends and that made it easier. I was able to laugh at myself for the mistakes I made. The best advice I can give is don't give up, and if there is opportunity to learn something new, just say yes. You will be more knowledgeable and grateful you did. If you are not sure, just say yes. Make language fun! The things that are funny and simple are remembered the most.



Contact Us.

Special Studies: Japanese Major, and Japanese Minor are available. If you are interested, contact the Japanese Program.

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## JPN Language & Culture Table

We are students in JPN232: Intermediate Japanese 2.

Come see us Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 6pm in McKee 135 and learn Japanese language and culture together!!!

**Courtney Rittle**

**Zindy Cruz**

**Sydney-Morgan Arthur**

**Alison Parnter**

