

VOL. 2 | SPRING2016

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# WCU Japanese Program Newsletter



## Undergraduate Expo, March 30<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Students from JPN393 Japanese Calligraphy course presented their work at Undergraduate Expo on March 30<sup>th</sup>. This year was the fourth time that the Japanese program participated in this event. The title of their project was "Past, Current and Future." Students picked three kanji that represented their past, current and future. Every student did a great job! We as the Japanese program are hoping to continue participating in this event every year.



## International Festival, April 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

The Japanese program participated in the International Festival, and students from the Japanese program did a "Bon Odori" dance which is one of the traditional Japanese dances. Students had an opportunity to practice dancing in class, and they did a wonderful performance at the event.





The dance video is available from the link below:

Please share it with your teachers, family and friends!

<http://youtu.be/JbwTifwBUy>

## A Handmade *Temari* ball

One of the students from the Japanese program, Jade Rino, made a *temari* ball. *Temari* is a “Japanese symbol of perfection,” and it was made as a “toy ball for young children” (from Temari.com). Jade said that it was not so difficult to make them, but keeping the pattern was a little bit difficult. They are very beautiful! Thank you for bringing them to class, Reno-san! We really appreciate that she shared them with her classmates.



Richard Freeman

Graduating with a 4.0 GPA and the Dean's Outstanding Scholar Award!!!



Richard received the Dean's Outstanding Scholar Award on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The picture is with the department head of the World Language, Dr. Will Lehman.

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

Hello, my name is Richard Freeman and I am a Senior here at Western Carolina University Studying Japanese Language and Culture and minoring in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

2. You studied Japanese Language and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Why did you choose this combination?

I have always enjoyed the history and rich culture of Japan. I chose this path as a stepping stone to one day opening a business in Japan. I decided that a Japanese major and TESOL minor would be the most beneficial in allowing me to pursue a career living and working in Japan and allow me to continue to study the language beyond what I have learned in school.

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?

Taking the opportunity to study abroad was one of the most rewarding and helpful things I have ever done in my life. While the immersion experience in the language and culture was very beneficial, it was also the connections I made to the people I met and the chance to take a look at many new and unique things that made it so rewarding. I was able to work with middle school and high school students as an English conversation teacher on weekends and visit many amazing places in and around Hiroshima. There was plenty of opportunity to go out and explore. Miyajima was gorgeous, I was swarmed by hundreds of rabbits on Okunoshima (better known as bunny island), I was awe-struck at the foot of Mount Fuji, amazed walking through thousands of torii gates at the Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto, and lost myself to the beautiful countryside throughout Japan.







## The *Chukyo* 6+2

8 students from the Japanese program including the 6 students who recently moved to *Nagoya*, Japan to study abroad are now studying at *Chukyo* University.

### **Students who are studying from 2015 to 2016:**

Shahidah Uthman, Kelvin Riley

### **Students who are studying in Spring 2016:**

Mayra Garcia Romeo, Rebecca Olson, Daniel Hendrix, Marlene Vaughn, Bradley Stutts, Patrick Killian



# Summer Travel Course

## JPN393: Japanology – Beyond Borders

### (Cross Listed with BA393: Global Business in Asia)

**DATE:** May 11th - June 1st in 2016.

**PLACE:** Tokyo, Nagoya, Tokushima, Kyoto, Nara, and Osaka.

This course is designed for students who have already acquired strong and unique intercultural awareness and are eager to go beyond. One of the goals of this class is to cultivate sufficient skills in order to create a personal response to current events in Japan and Asia. Students will be required to develop their ability to view each topic multi-dimensionally and discuss it with supporting arguments. Our ultimate goal is to facilitate meaningful comparisons BEYOND American and Japanese cultures to enhance students' intercultural understanding as global citizens. This course is cross-listed with BA393: Global Business in Asia, which is led by assistant professor in marketing and sales in College of Business, Dr. Scott Rader. We have 10 students this year.

#### **PARTICIPANTS:**

Elisabeth Sample

Spencer Perkins

Sydney-Morgan Arthur

Samuel Avins

Erica Carland

Dylan Denton

Brandee Harris

Catherine Mason

Courtney Rittle

Richard Walker

## Course list for FALL 2016

JPN101: Elementary Japanese 1 (4 sections)

JPN190: Freshman Seminar: Introduction to Japanese Pop Culture

JPN231: Intermediate Japanese 1

JPN301: Third Year Japanese 1 (Hybrid Course through World Language Exchange from WCU)

JPN305: Introduction to Japanese Literature in Translation

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

## Animazement 2016

May 27-29<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh, NC

### What is Animazement?

Animazement is an all-volunteer, fan-run anime convention in Raleigh, North Carolina, celebrating popular Japanese visual culture in all of its forms. The parent organization of Animazement, Educational Growth Across Oceans (EGAO) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The mission of Animazement is to provide an introduction to Japanese Language and Culture, through the world of Japanese Animation and Manga. For three days each spring, a diverse group of attendees, volunteers, special Japanese and American guests, panelists, and our staff come together to share in celebrating Japanese entertainment and visual culture. Our activities span the various genres of anime, manga, video games, J-pop/J-rock, martial arts, traditional arts and crafts, and more in a family-friendly, festival-like atmosphere. Sure, it's a party, but it is our sincere hope that everyone who attends Animazement will learn something and leave with a greater sense of cultural understanding and appreciation for Japanese Culture and Language.

『日本のアニメと漫画を通じて日本の文化・日本語を紹介する』



## Otake sensei moving on to bigger things in Japan!

I really enjoyed teaching at Western. Unfortunately, the time has come for me to move back to Japan, but I really hope all of you will continue studying Japanese and find something that interests you in the language and culture. If you haven't been outside the city, state or country, please go explore the world while you are young. Learning new languages and culture is really fun, and I am sure you will have amazing experiences. If you ever come up with any questions about the language and culture, please feel free to send me a message. I will always be happy to help. COME VISIT ME IN JAPAN!

-Otake



さようなら～日本で会いましょう！

