



Winter 2016 Vol.5

WCU

JAPANESE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



The Japanese program held Japan Night 2016 on Thursday, November 17 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at McKee 121 as a part of International Education Week. The event consisted of a series of presentations by students who are studying in and/or related to the Japanese program. The ultimate goal of the event was celebrating the opportunities to:



Japan Night in International Education Week 2016

- 1) share their first-hand experience with other students,
- 2) promote understanding difference and similarities among their own cultures including American and Japanese cultures, and
- 3) make a bridge between the first-year students and senior students to build a community of future leadership in the Japanese program and beyond.



More than 70 people participated in the event.

Part 1: Student organizations related to the JPN program

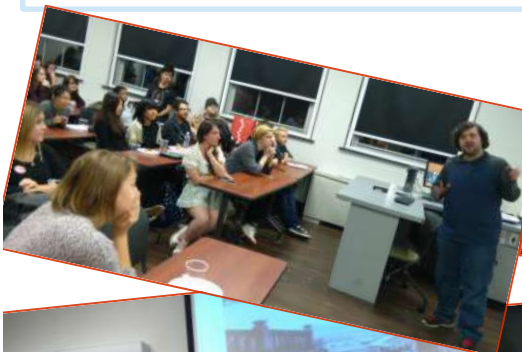
- a) Asian Student Association
- b) Japanese Animation Society
- c) Pokémon Club
- d) Mt. Fuji All Stars
- e) Japanese Language and Culture Table

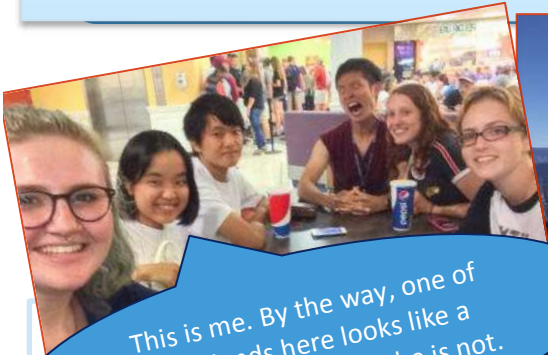
Part 2: Culture, language, & people: Everything you need to know in order to survive in Japan

- a) Study abroad experience in Japanese universities presented by six students
- b) JPN493: Summer travel course in Japan 2016 presented by six students

Part 3: What am I doing here? : How can I cope with Americans without losing my Japanese dignity?

- a) Study abroad experience at WCU presented by six Japanese international students.





This is me. By the way, one of my friends here looks like a zombie a little bit, but he is not.



Where am I !?



Welcome to WCU! Ms. Moe Tamaki

1. Would you please introduce yourself?

Hi! I am Moe Tamaki. I am an exchange student from Osaka Educational University in Japan. My major is English Education. When I was in secondary school, I met one teacher, whose lessons were very interesting and I came to like school. He was the best teacher I have ever met. From then on, my future goal was to become a teacher.

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

Before I decided to come to WCU, I was supposed to practice teaching in an elementary school in Japan last summer. However, I did not have confidence with my English and teaching abilities. I wanted to improve my English and learn about the education system in other countries to better prepare myself for teaching. In addition, I wanted to put myself in difficult circumstances to help overcome these weaknesses. In order to achieve my goal, there was no other way than to study abroad at WCU.



3. Would you please tell us how your study-abroad experience has been here? How do you spend your time when you are not doing school-related activities?

It has been about four months since I came here, but I have already made a lot of nice friends who I want to see and hangout with again even after I go back to Japan. Of course, I have had some hard times. Sometimes I struggled with my classes and English, but when I would see and talk with my friends, I could get through these hard times. Thanks to my great friends, I have had many wonderful experiences and now I do not want to go back to Japan. I am really lucky I could come here.



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

After I graduate, I am planning to be an English teacher. My experiences here have been very helpful for my future goal, and not just English but everything I have learned, felt and seen has helped me get closer to my future goal.

5. What is the wildest dream you have?

Since I was in secondary school I have never changed my future goal of becoming an English teacher. While that is my goal, my dream is to come back to America, but not as a student, but to get a job and live in America. This is because I realized I like the people here and English. I do not want my time here studying abroad to be the only time I am here. I think this dream is far away now, but to come closer to this new goal, I will have to keep trying and learning English.

6. As your closing statement, what would you like to tell the students in JPN program?

I am grateful that many students are studying Japanese at Western. Japan is a really nice place. I am proud to be Japanese. I am sure you will like Japan if you get the chance to come. If you have any problems studying Japanese or something you want to know, I will gladly help you! Thank you for choosing Japanese as your second language.



Welcome to WCU!

Ms. Kathryn Milke

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

こんにちは。My name is Katy Milke and I am a junior transfer student from West Palm Beach, Florida. **My major is anthropology with a**

concentration in forensics and my minor is Japanese. My dad introduced me to Japanese culture when I was very young. He was in the Marine Corps and was stationed there long before I was born. He taught me the numbers, a few basic words and how to use chopsticks. He even used Japanese, among other languages, in everyday life. His favorite was when he was lecturing me and my sister using *わかりますか* (Wakarimasuka) instead of "do you understand?" It wasn't until I got to middle school that I really started getting into anime and manga. My first official one was Inuyasha.. I've been hooked ever since.

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

There isn't much about Japan in general that I don't find interesting. **The language can be difficult but I've always loved a good challenge. Writing it out is also really fun and hopefully, I'll be good enough at it to do calligraphy.** I also really enjoy learning about the history, particularly about the feudal era and the ways of the samurai. That probably has a lot to do with movies and such but I still think it's an interesting part of their past. **I would also love to learn any of the Japanese martial arts. I mean, who wouldn't, right?**

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

My short-term goal is to be fluent in Japanese. My long-term goal is to participate in the JET program and live in Japan for a bit. I know the program doesn't require you to know any Japanese, but it would be a lot easier if I knew what everyone, including myself, were saying.

4. What is the wildest dream related to your experience about Japanese language, culture, and studying in Japan?

The only thing I expect from this program is to learn the language, the culture and hopefully give me the opportunity to, at the very least, visit Japan. From what I've seen in movies and pictures and through stories I've heard, Japan is a beautiful place, rich with history and culture. Ever since my dad put those chopsticks in my hand, I've always wanted to visit.





Congratulations Graduate!

Mr. Antonio Esquivel

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

My name is Tony Esquivel. I grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. I am currently a **double major in Political Science and Japanese Language and Culture Studies**.



2. You studied Political Science and Japanese Language and Culture Studies. Why did you choose this combination? Tell us about your motivation to study Japanese as well.

I chose Political Science and Japanese as my majors **because I would like to work in the Foreign Service**. My job would make me a representative on behalf of the United States government, and **I would help facilitate communication between the US and Japan**. I have been studying Japanese in order to perform this job.

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 had a lot of fun and learned many things, not only Japanese related, but I **also learned about my own limitations and myself too**. It was a very unique experience and a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow as a student and a person. When I wasn't doing school related activities, I spent time exploring the local area with friends and trying out all kinds of foods.



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

This goes hand in hand with my earlier answer about my combination of majors. **I am doing my best to set myself up for a career in the Foreign Service, and my knowledge of Japanese language and culture go a long way towards that goal.**



5. What is the wildest dream related to your experience about Japanese language, culture, and study-abroad experience in Japan?

My wildest dream would be to become the United States Ambassador to Japan— you have to know a lot of people to become an Ambassador, and the path there might take you somewhere you don't necessarily want to be.

Embassy of the United States, Tokyo

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

Read your textbook! Many of the questions I was asked in tutoring you could find the answers to in the book. After that, all I can say is that **if you're serious about learning Japanese (or any language for that matter), you will have to put in the time and effort to study to make it happen.** You gotta want it!

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

Definitely study abroad. Again, it's a wonderful opportunity to learn not just a language, but about yourself and the rest of the world. I believe the perspective living in a foreign country for an extended period of time is invaluable and makes you a more well-rounded individual.



The 2nd WCU Japanese program button design contest for the '16-'17 academic year

The WCU Japanese program hosted a button design contest for the '16-'17 academic year. Nine students in the Japanese program submitted their original design and all students taking Japanese voted for their favorite. We are happy to announce the winner:

Mr. Burgin Mackey

こんにちは。バーギン・マッキーです。ウェスタンカロライナ大学の一年生です。専攻は環境衛生です。副専攻は日本語です。(Hello, my name is Burgin Mackey. I am a freshman at WCU. My major is Environmental Health. My minor is Japanese.)



I began learning Japanese in 2011 after seeing news coverage of the **Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011**. It made me realize what I want to do in life: **keep people safe from natural disasters and ensuring that we act responsibly towards the environment.** It also sparked my interest in the Japanese



language and culture. From there, I formally studied Japanese in High School for two years, eventually becoming one of two online Japanese tutors for the State of North Carolina with NCVPS.

My design is inspired by a staple of Japanese art, the paper crane. **The crane represents simplicity, peace, and harmony, these are things we should strive towards in our studies and everyday lives.** The crane is an enduring symbol of Japan, as is the rising sun, which emblazons the foundation of the design. I hope you enjoy this button as much as I did designing it.



Our incredible administrative support assistant, **Ms. Melissa Allen**, is holding the students' designs including Mr. Mackey's *"in a flame"*, which is decorated in the glass case of the Department of World Languages.

Thank you so much, Melissa, for your support of our program and the department.



いいえ (iie, you are welcome.)

Mt. Fuji All Stars: The Japanese program launched the club called Mt. Fuji All Stars this semester. **The goal of the club is to provide the students studying Japanese language and culture in the Japanese program and international students from Japan with the opportunity to connect with each other and exchange their cultures for building a great community.** We have enjoyed a variety of extracurricular



activities including participating in the intramural soccer and volleyball leagues on campus as well as taking a hike at the Great Smoky Mountains. **We are planning on providing more fun events like painting/drawing, hiking, and river rafting next semester. Please check out our upcoming events on our Japanese program's Facebook page (@wcu_jpn)**



This is me.

Ms. Danielle Averitt

Hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains



On December 10th, part of the Mt. Fuji Hiking Club gathered together for their first hike of the year. Mt. Fuji Hiking Club hiked the Oconaluftee River Trail, and although the trail was more of a walk than a true hike, members still enjoyed the scenery of the Great Smoky Mountains. The hike consisted of 3-mile round trip trail with the local Oconaluftee Visitor Center and Cherokee Informational Farm at the beginning of the trail. Even though the weather was fairly cold, members toughed it out to enjoy the exercise and various photos taken along the hike. The club also traveled National Park to enjoy viewpoints, where students in the Japanese program learned how to call to the mountain, “ヤッホー” (jahho). The club will meet again to hike sometime next month when students have returned from winter break.



further into the



Japanese Community Course

Konnichiwa!: Conversational Japanese

Konnichiwa!: Conversational Japanese is a **5-week non-credit 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 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: Go to WCU web page and search “Konnichiwa!” Please contact yono@wcu.edu for questions.

Motohashi sensei presented his paper at ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) in Boston.



2016-2017

FALL 2016

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

JPN231: Intermediate Japanese 1

JPN301: Third Year Japanese 1 at WCU through World Language Exchange

JPN190: Introduction to Japanese Pop Culture

JPN305: Introduction to Japanese Literature in Translation

JPN451: Advanced Grammar: JLPT Prep

SPRING 2017

JPN101-01: Beginning Japanese 1

JPN102-01, & 02: Beginning Japanese 2

JPN232: Intermediate Japanese 2

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

JPN393: Going Global: Language, Culture, & Business

JPN306: Manga, Anime, & Japan

JPN452: Advanced Conversation: OPI Prep

SUMMER 2017

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

“I traveled to Boston during the time of November 18th to 20th in order to attend the nation’s biggest language teaching conference called ACTFL. My fellow professors and I gave a presentation, which we have been working on. The title of the presentation was “The Can-do statement project and its impact on Japanese courses” in which we discussed the language and cultural tasks we created in the project for the students to achieve through the semester and the effectiveness of the tasks for the students’ learning outcome”

Motohashi

NCSSFL-ACTFL Can-Do Statements

<https://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/ncssfl-actfl-can-do-statements>

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 students the ability to gain knowledge of language, culture, and business between Japan and the U.S. **Please contact Motohashi sensei (smotohashi@wcu.edu)** for the prerequisites and selection process including a face-to-face interview to be enrolled in the course.



Thank you and best wishes for the holidays and New Year.
WCU Japanese program.