MATCHA AND MINDFULNESS: REVIVING THE ART OF TEA

MATCHA AND MINDFULNESS: REVIVING THE ART OF TEA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Students gathered just outside the tatami mat room, watching intently as their yukata-clad classmates seated themselves in the traditional seiza position, kneeling on the floor. As their teacher watched and took notes, the students took turn preparing matcha and serving it to their groupmates. The slightly bitter, frothy, bright green tea was served with exquisite Japanese sweets, purchased from a Seattle area specialty store. Every move the students made, both server and guests, was carefully choreographed and controlled, dictated by ancient traditions.

A club? An unusual hobby? In this case, the tatami room of the Japanese Go Center was the unusual site of the studio class associated with a 5-credit class offered in autumn 2017 and spring 2018 through the Department of Asian Languages and Literature: Chanoyu: Japanese Culture of Tea (JAPAN 317). This course represents a unique opportunity for UW students to experience a drink very different from the more familiar Starbucks Frappuccino: matcha, or Japanese green tea. Lectures for JAPAN 317 were given by Timothy Olson in autumn 2017 and by Bonnie Mitchell in spring 2018. Studio sessions during both quarters were led by Bonnie Mitchell with the assistance of three teaching associates: Douglas Bacon, Sachiko Levy, and Kazumi Ohara.

In this special course, students divide their time between a lecture class, held on the UW campus, in which they learn the history, background, and language associated with the tea ceremony, and a studio session, held

continues on page 4
Asia Notes

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR
Summer 2018

Dear Alumni and Friends:

I hope our annual newsletter finds you well. As you can see in these pages, we have had another busy year. We launched an undergraduate major in Asian Languages and Cultures, and have already conferred a handful of BAs to students who chose this capacious, new track. Chinese program faculty members created an intensive summer study abroad program in Beijing, with generous funding from the Confucius Institute of the State of Washington.

I am also pleased to report that members of the local community have started a campaign to raise funds to support the study of classical Japanese language and literature at UW, with a focus on graduate fellowships. I was deeply touched when I learned of its inception. Classical Japanese literature is the field to which I have devoted my life. It is extraordinarily gratifying to learn that someone cares about the same things you do, and feels that they are worthwhile. Many of the members of the campaign committee have no formal connection to the university as alumni or faculty, but they have shared our needs and stepped forward to try to fulfill them. They believe in the importance of what we are doing and are living out that belief.

It would be equally gratifying to see similar campaigns to support other fields of the department. Fellowships for graduate student aid remain our highest priority; they support the rising generation of scholars who will be teaching students who are yet to be born. Even in our highly technological corner of the world, interest in Asian languages, literatures, and cultures remains strong. We are in an excellent position to build on this interest, foster, and nurture it. It goes (almost) without saying that we cannot do it alone; we need your help.

With warm regards,

Paul Atkins
Professor of Japanese
Department Chair

ANDREW L. MARKUS MEMORIAL LECTURE:
RONALD EGAN ON THE APPROPRIATION OF TANG POETRY IN LATER CHINESE PAINTING

By Dr. Wang Ping, Associate Professor

For this year’s Andrew L. Markus Memorial Lecture, Professor Ronald Egan, ’70, chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literature and Confucius Institute Professor of Sinology at Stanford University, treated all who attended to a wonderful tour of poetry and paintings from late imperial China. His lecture, titled “The Appropriation of Tang Poetry in Later Chinese Painting,” was presented on May 8, 2018. The event drew an audience of over one hundred students, faculty, and community members.

Professor Egan received his BA degree from this department almost fifty years ago and met his wife, also a UW graduate, while both were studying here. It was a great pleasure to welcome them back to campus for this very special occasion.

In his lecture, Professor Egan drew our attention to a special and often overlooked instance of inscribing poems from centuries earlier as part of the newly completed paintings of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Poetry of the Tang dynasty—during which time classical Chinese poetic writing reached a pinnacle—was the most favored choice. As Professor Egan demonstrated in his presentation filled with slides of fascinating words and images, such inscriptions hold particular interest for they show about the intersection of verbal and pictorial arts as well as the aesthetic interplay of past and present. Artists of later times engaged in serious personal and political dialogues with early medieval and Tang iconic figures such as Tao Yuanming and Du Fu and their dedication to moral ideals and dynastic fates were often moving, if not obsessive, from the perspective of a modern viewer. These solumin pursuits of the art, in their paths of transmitting and transforming influences, were occasionally intercepted by unexpected and unexplained gratuitous plays on the tradition.

The diversity and richness displayed and showcased in Professor Egan’s lecture makes it difficult yet exciting to investigate the question of what sorts of effects the artists who inscribed famous as well as obscure poems on their paintings were trying to achieve. On some levels, their motives constituted reasonable grounds for examination with regard especially to aesthetics of late imperial times. Professor Egan astutely pointed out that, although sometimes they do seem merely random, other times these inscribed poems generate profound meaning and aesthetic affection toward the painted images, which would be rendered pointless otherwise. In other words, the value of these paintings seems to depend heavily on the poetry added. Whether the poems were written by a contemporary or not, the painter himself or not, was most. What mattered was interpretation, not creativity. The hermeneutics of classical poetry buttressed, if not dominated, the making and receiving of late imperial pictorial art, which in turn could be argued to have extended and expanded the reception history of earlier poetry.

As a result, the way we perceive an earlier poem may change as a result of a later painting. In today’s digital age when databases of poetry allow us to identify ancient poems that the painter may have deliberately left unidentified, art historians and classical literature scholars could possibly collaborate to open up new directions in which the lives of the word and the image have come to be intricately intertwined. At the end of Egan’s lecture, he encouraged scholars to cross disciplinary boundaries in order to explore the meaning of Chinese art in territories never imagined before.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The 2018 annual convocation and awards ceremony marked the passing of another successful year for the department. Featured front and center were the accomplishments of our graduating students. The Department conferred a total of 71 Bachelor of Arts degrees this year: 14 in Chinese, 37 in Japanese, 7 in Korean, 2 in South Asian Languages and Literature, and 11 in the Asian Languages and Culture major, brand new in spring quarter 2018.

A number of graduate students also received degrees. The Master of Arts degree was conferred upon Siyuan Fu, Youngjin Kwon, Hamah Chi, and Zhuhua Li (all specializing in Chinese languages and literature). Candidate for Doctor of Philosophy status was granted to Nathaniel Bond (Japanese), Jennifer Liu (Chinese), Michael Butcher (Buddhist Studies), and Corbett Costello (South Asian Languages and Literature).

The faculty were also pleased to give a number of awards to recognize the highest achievements of our undergraduate and graduate students. Graduate students Siyuan Fu, Ross Henderson, and Youngjin Kwon received the Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, while Christopher Diamond and Zhivirin Chen received the Turrell V. Wylie Memorial Scholarship Award. Undergraduate awardees included Hung Hui Bao Nguyen, who received the Scott Swaner Memorial Book Award, and Kaleo Chan, Valerie Owens, and Peiyu Wu, who received the Henry S. Tatsumi Award.

Headlining the event was the keynote address from Mr. Eugene Saburi, an experienced global IT executive who most recently served as president of Adobe Japan. Mr. Saburi is a board member of the UW Alumni Association in Japan, and was graduated from this department in 1993 with a BA in Japanese. Mr. Saburi’s enthusiastic and heartfelt speech detailed his varied career path, and encouraged students to never be afraid to take chances. As he told the graduates, recalling words his father had told him years ago quoting an ‘80s pop song, “The future’s so bright, you gotta wear shades!”
Another small group of students, Casi Goodman, Lance Warnecke, and Ashley Nanneman (Physics ’18), even came to help out. Now a senior, he was inspired by his experience in JAPAN 317 to take classes on the tea ceremony outside of the university, at the East-West Chanoyu Center, a Seattle-area organization that has offered tea classes, demonstrations, and lectures for the broader community since 1981. More than just a class on tea, JAPAN 317 has in this way paved the way for fruitful relationships between the university and the broader Seattle-area Japanese community.

Although the students were taking their final exams, there was a celebratory feeling in the air during the last Friday studio class. “It’s great to have a chance to relax on a Friday afternoon, and clear the mind by concentrating really hard on something other than math homework!” one student noted. A former student in the class, Isaac Nanneman (Physics ’18), even came to help out. Now a senior, he was inspired by his experience in JAPAN 317 to take classes on the tea ceremony outside of the university, at the East-West Chanoyu Center, a Seattle-area organization that has offered tea classes, demonstrations, and lectures for the broader community since 1981. More than just a class on tea, JAPAN 317 has in this way paved the way for fruitful relationships between the university and the broader Seattle-area Japanese community.

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Chris Diamond was awarded the Alvord Dissertation Fellowship Award, the university’s most prestigious graduate award in the humanities, for spring 2019. He spent the previous year in India on the Fulbright Nehru Fellowship. Working primarily with Jadavpur University in Kolkata, he traveled extensively throughout India and Nepal, conducting archival research. He also gave a lecture at the American Center of the U.S. Embassy in Kolkata, and presented at numerous international conferences.

Chris Diamond visiting Jantar Mantar (Giant Size Astronomical Tools) in Jaipur, Rajasthan during his Fulbright year (photo provided by Chris Diamond).

In the summer of 2017, Dich-Ngoc Turner, lecturer in Vietnamese, participated in a workshop on Vietnamese pedagogy at the Vietnamese Language & Studies School in Hanoi, as well as visiting a philanthropy project sponsored by the Great Seattle Vietnam Association in Hanoi. Seattle’s sister city. She was recently elected vice president of this association. In addition, she presented at the Council of Teachers of South East Asian Languages (COTSEAL) workshop on content-based instruction and curriculum development in Vietnamese at Cornell University, where she was also elected as president of the Group of Vietnamese for the Advancement of Vietnamese in America (GUVI).

ALUMNI NEWS

Genoveva Castro (PhD, ’16) accepted a position at Southern Connecticut State University.

Yingying Sun (PhD, ’16) is working for Portland State University as adjunct assistant professor.

Noel Vincent (BA, ’12) was awarded a MEXT scholarship (from Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) to study abroad in Japan.

Kai Xie (PhD, ’17) accepted a tenure-track job at Kenyon College.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Sean Bradley will publish an article titled “Mythic: Medical Knowledge from Arabia into Chinese Materia Medica” in the Italian medical journal Medicina Novi Secoli. He also gave a number of conference presentations in Beijing and Shanghai.

Zhinan Chen was selected to receive the Graduate School Presidential Dissertation Fellowship for academic year 2018-19, one of the university’s most coveted prizes for graduate study.


Corbett Costello was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for 2018-19, which will allow him to continue research on the Jain religious community in medieval North India. His research specifically focuses on tracing the textual and cultural history of one of the most important Jain scriptures, the Kalpa Sutra. The patronage, production, and reception of this “manuscripture” presents an excellent case study to examine issues related to textual, material, and ritual culture in this particular historical time and region.

Genevieve Hill was awarded a scholarship from Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to study abroad in Japan. She will pursue her MA research there from the summer of 2018 until 2020.

Savraní Kamamarludüpi will take part in an intensive workshop on South Asia’s earliest inscriptions, held at the University of Pennsylvania in August, 2018. The workshop introduces the Brāhmī script, inscriptional Prakrit, and the historiography of epigraphical evidence from South Asia.

Jennifer Liu gave a paper at the annual Circle of Comparative Philosophy Conference, Bath, England and participated in the third annual Workshop on Ancient Historiography in Comparison at Renmin University in Beijing.

Christopher Lowy presented at a number of conferences, including the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference in D.C. He also published an article entitled “Inscription and Japanese-language Literature” in AJALT (the journal for the Association of Japanese Language Teaching).

KATHERINE BROWER (JAPANESE AND MICROBIOLOGY, ’19)

What do Japanese and microbiology have in common?

This is not a riddle, but a conundrum posed by UW senior Katherine Brower, who is majoring in both Japanese and microbiology—two demanding, time-intensive courses of study. Brower notes that while there are not many apparent similarities, both majors do require certain skills, such as problem solving and memorization. She believes these skills have helped her become a better student, more efficient at her studies, and a more effective team member for group projects. Brower adds, “When it comes to solving problems, I enjoy being able to learn more from both perspectives and mindsets.”

Her ability to understand a variety of perspectives, developed by her double major, led to her being recognized this year as a member of the Husky 100: a group of 100 UW students who are making the most of their time at university. These 100 students are standouts in the UW community for their ability to discover connections both in and outside of the classroom, their commitment to inclusive communities, and their capacity for leadership.

Brower first came to UW as a transfer student from Bellevue College, where she initially developed her love for languages and the sciences. Her interest in Japanese began during high school, but during her first year at UW, she gave up learning the language to focus instead primarily on science courses and extracurricular activities. However, she remained fascinated by the possibilities of the Japanese language, and during her second year at UW, she enrolled in Japanese classes and began volunteering with the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FLITS) Language Exchange program, which helps international students adjust to life at the University of Washington. The experience eventually prompted Brower to spend an entire year studying Japanese abroad at Hokkaido University, in Sapporo, Japan. At Hokkaido University, she took classes on language and culture, and volunteered in a Japanese high school, teaching the students about American culture and the English language.

So would Brower recommend a challenging course of study like this? She says, “Double majoring in humanities and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and medicine) field can be difficult at times but I believe that it is incredibly rewarding for a variety of reasons. It is really nice to be able to balance my courses rather than being intensely science-focused or intensely humanities-focused.” In addition to her year studying abroad in Japan, Brower has spent her time at UW doing undergraduate research in microbiology. She has worked extensively on the genetics of aging, carrying out research that hopes to eliminate the effects of aging and lower the chances of developing age related disease.

In the future, Brower hopes to combine these two interests by returning to Japan and continuing her scientific research. She is ultimately interested in becoming a professor and using her Japanese language skills on a daily basis. Despite her time-consuming research work in STEM, Brower does not have any regrets about her choice to prioritize language learning. She comments that “Language learning opens up your world to new ways of thinking and understanding through different cultural perspectives.”

A NEW PARTNERSHIP: INTRODUCING WASHIN KAI

Washin Kai is a group of local Seattle citizens and UW alumni who are interested in promoting the study of classical Japanese language, literature, and culture at UW, with a focus on supporting graduate students. In conjunction with the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, Washin Kai will sponsor two lectures on campus this year, one in autumn 2018 and one in spring 2019. The first lecture, by Professor Paul Atkins, will be held on October 25, discussing the life and works of the medieval Japanese poet and courtier Fujiwara no Taka (1162-1241). The lecture is open to any interested alumni or community members, who are encouraged to attend.

Please email department chair Paul Atkins (patkins@uw.edu) or visit washinkai.info if you are interested in supporting this crucial project.

KATHERINE BROWER (JAPANESE AND MICROBIOLOGY, ’19)
3RD ANNUAL NORTHWEST CONFERENCE ON JAPANESE PEDAGOGY

On May 12-13, 2018, Izumi Matsuda-Kiami and Itsuko Nishikawa, together with the faculty of the Japanese program, hosted the 3rd Northwest Conference on Japanese Pedagogy, which attracted 40 college-level and secondary school teachers from the Pacific Northwest and beyond. The conference theme was “Content Based Language Instruction (CBLI): Implementation and Effectiveness.” The conference opened with a keynote speech by Professor Masako Douglas from California State University Long Beach titled “Content Based Language Instruction (CBLI): Curriculum Design and Measurement of the Effectiveness,” followed by her hands-on workshop on differentiating instruction for students with different background needs, and designing scaffolding activities using authentic materials in content-based classes.

For the rest of the conference, there were seven presentations on various topics in Japanese language teaching. The topics included an individualized approach to advanced Japanese and curriculum development using project-based approach. The conference provided a great opportunity for the participants to revisit the CBLI approach and consider ways to improve their own teaching, as well as exchanging new ideas and information. This event was made possible with financial support provided by the East Asia Center, the UW Japan Studies Program, and Asian Languages and Literature.
**RECOGNITION OF OUR DONORS**

**JULY 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2018**

The faculty, students, and staff of the department are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their belief in and support of our mission to teach and study Asian languages, literature, and culture.

**IN MEMORIAM:**

**CHEN XINZHAN**

Our department community was saddened by the sudden death in June of Chen Xinzhan, a pre-doctoral student in Chinese Literature.

Xinzhan received a BA in Chinese from Shanghai Jiaotong University and an MSc in Modern Chinese Cultural Studies from the University of Edinburgh. She entered our graduate program in Chinese Language and Literature in autumn 2015, recruited with a three-year fellowship package supported by the Department of Asian Languages and Literature and the Maurice D. and Lois Schwartz Endowment. Thanks to her talent and hard work she progressed rapidly in her studies. Her petition to do doctoral study was approved in Spring 2017, and she was in the process of completing her graduate field exams and drafting a dissertation prospectus when she passed away.

Xinzhan’s field of specialization was modern Chinese literature. Under the direction of Prof. Chris Hann, she planned to conduct dissertation research on the topic of “alt-history” and “future-history” in modern and contemporary Chinese fiction—permutations of the historical novel that explored the relationship between fiction and historiography.

She was a dedicated and creative student, skeptical, adept at synthesising a wide range of methods and materials, and equipped with a distinctively wry perspective. The passing of a young scholar of such promise is a loss to the field. Xinzhan will be greatly missed by the faculty and fellow students who had the privilege of knowing and working with her.

The department extends its heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones.

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**Professor Richard G. Salomon** received his PhD in Sanskrit from the University of Pennsylvania. After joining the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, he began teaching classes on Sanskrit and Indian language and culture. He served as the Director of the British Library/University of Washington Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project and general editor of Gandhāran Buddhist Texts series. His most recent publication, in 2018, is Buddhist Literature of Ancient Gandhāra: An Introduction with Selective Translations (published by Wisdom Publications). This volume is a distillation of the results of more than twenty years of study of the world’s oldest surviving Buddhist manuscripts by Professor Salomon and his collaborators in the University of Washington Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project.

Professor and Dean **Michael C. Shapiro** also retired this year after serving as divisional dean for the humanities, as well as chair of Asian Languages and Literature for two terms. Professor Shapiro received his PhD in Linguistics from the University of Chicago. His research focuses on the linguistic structure and rhetorical structures of early New Indo-Aryan texts, and on aspects of early Sikh scripture. He also taught classes on Hindi language and culture for many years.

Professor **Anne Yue-Hashimoto** retired after a long and distinguished career at the University of Washington. She received her PhD in Linguistics from Ohio State University. Beginning in 1994, she taught advanced Chinese language courses and courses on language structure and culture at the University of Washington. Her research deals with Chinese dialects and the language of the famous Oracle Bones.

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**RETIRED FACULTY**

This year, the Department of Asian Languages and Literature bid farewell to three of its long-time faculty members, each of whom taught with us for forty years or more. Their devoted efforts during their long and distinguished careers have contributed greatly to the Department’s success and they will be keenly missed.

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**Professor and Dean Michael C. Shapiro**

**Professor Richard G. Salomon**

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**Professor Anne Yue-Hashimoto**

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SAVE THE DATE

WASHIN KAI LECTURE

PAUL ATKINS

Thursday, October 25, 2018, 7–8:30 p.m.  KANE HALL, RM 210

THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL
ANDREW L. MARKUS MEMORIAL LECTURE

JOHN TREAT
Professor Emeritus of East Asian Languages & Literatures, Yale University

Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 5:30–8:00 p.m.  KANE HALL, WALKER-AMES ROOM

ASIAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE CONVOCATION AND RECEPTION

Friday, June 14, 2019, 3:30–6 p.m.
KANE HALL 210 AND WALKER-AMES ROOM

Asia Notes is the annual newsletter of the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Washington.

Editor: Elizabeth Self

Publisher: Paul S. Atkins

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If you have comments, feedback, or corrections, if you would like to change your address, or if you would like to subscribe to or unsubscribe from this mailing list, please contact Elizabeth Self (asianapp@uw.edu.)

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