Welcome Message from New COS Director, Dr. Masato Ishida

As the new director of the Center of Okinawan Studies, I am delighted to wish you all a happy new year and to invite you to explore Okinawan studies in exciting ways. The growth of the Center, now approaching its 10th anniversary, has been made possible through faculty, student, and community support. The Center has established a strong connection to the local Okinawan community in Hawai‘i thanks to the work of our former Directors: Drs. Leon Serafim, Kyoko Hijirida, and Joyce Chinen. The ties between Hawai‘i and Okinawa are deep and go beyond historical or cultural connections — they are important assets to the study of modern Okinawa, especially with regard to immigration, World War II, and Japan-U.S. relations in Asia.

The Center is also proud of having talented students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels working on Okinawan themes, some sharing their stories in this newsletter. We want them to work at the forefront of their respective disciplines and to boldly contribute to the future of Okinawan studies. The Center plans to invite distinguished scholars and specialists from around the world, starting with Emeritus Professor Hiyane Teruo of the University of Ryukyus, an author of a number of books on modern Okinawan history and its relation to democratic and anti-democratic movements in Japan. Professor Hiyane will offer a COS seminar, meet with students, and visit the Okinawan community in Hawai‘i between February 19th and 23rd.

COS benefits from UH’s institutional strength deriving from outstanding experts and staff members. Besides a world-class historical collection of Okinawan materials, we have Ms. Sachiko Iwabuchi, a dedicated librarian who continues to build on our already strong resources and helps us with research. Dr. Gay Satsuma, who has kindly served as interim Director, remains a conscientious driving force behind the Center’s operation. In a broader context, I also wish to note that the Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) and the School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS) offer generous support, making COS the only institution in the world where Okinawan studies can generate greater impact on Asian and Pacific studies. We must highlight the broad international scope of Okinawan studies at UH.

It is important for the mission of the Center to work across disciplinary and generational boundaries, and to strengthen our connections with people and institutions worldwide. UH’s sister relationship with the University of the Ryūkyūs (Ryūdai) is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2018, and UH also belongs to an international network in the form of the International Consortium of Okinawan Studies, which was established with Ryūdai and Meio University in 2015. These formal relationships facilitate educational exchange as well as faculty collaboration. My own research in Okinawan studies is mostly directed to the intellectual history of modern Okinawa, but there is definitely a lot more that we can do together. Your interest and support is crucial to COS. Please join us so that we can summon together our institutional strength, individual expertise, and passion.
Haitai. I am Uchinanchu, born and raised in Yomitan, Okinawa. Attracted to stories of Okinawan diasporic communities, I moved to Hawai‘i in 2004 to pursue an academic path. I first studied ethnic studies and international cultural studies at UHM, earning my bachelor’s and master’s degrees. I am currently pursuing a doctorate in the Department of Political Science. My research areas of interest include indigenous studies; ethnic and cultural studies; gender studies; and transpacific studies. My dissertation, tentatively titled “Till the Soil and Fill the Soul: Indigenous Resurgence and Everyday Practices of Farming in Okinawa” examines Okinawan indigeneity through analyses of Uchinanchu’s various actions and reconceptualization of land. 11/17/2017

Hilson Reidpath, PhD in Japanese Literature

Since arriving at UHM in 2014 one connecting thread that has run throughout my research has been an exploration of the notion of identity in Okinawa, particularly as reflected in its literature. A complicated idea in any context, it becomes especially challenging to define in the context of Okinawa, as the influences that have shaped identity in Okinawa are numerous and, depending on the era, points of contention and resistance. While I have mainly focused on contemporary Okinawan literature - my MA thesis was a study of post-war novels that depicted rape by U.S. soldiers on Okinawan women - I am becoming increasingly interested in the transition from the Ryukyu Kingdom to modern Okinawa Prefecture. How did the people of this time reconcile the loss of their kingdom and the challenges they encountered in becoming Japanese? Moving forward, I anticipate this question to remain central to my research and am excited to further develop it. 11/8/2017

Hilson Reidpath is a PhD student in the East Asian Languages and Literature department. During the 2017-18 Academic Year he is studying at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama.

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Megumi Chibana, PhD in Political Science

Alison Yamamoto, BA, Student Exchange at Ryudai

Haitai, Greetings From Okinawa!

My name is Alison Yamamoto and I am an international business major at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I am currently studying in Okinawa at the University of the Ryūkyūs through the Mānoa International Exchange program. It has been an exciting first two months with lots of new experiences, friends and studies. I have been able to meet with, learn from, and study alongside students from not only Okinawa and Japan but from all over the world. The opportunity to experience the Okinawan and Japanese language combined with culture through first hand experiences has been truly amazing. Some examples of this would be being able to participate in the annual Tug of War Festival, enjoying Culture Day in Okinawa and exploring Shuri Castle with my classmates. I am excitedly looking forward to more new adventures in the coming future. If interested in studying abroad in Japan I would highly recommend such an experience. 11/18/2017
On September 8th, a special lecture and reception for Dr. Joyce Chinen (UH West Oahu, retired) who recently retired from her position as Director for COS was held in the Tokioka Room. The lecture, entitled “Reflections on Okinawan Studies”, was an informal talk by Dr. Chinen, where she talked about her upbringing and how she came to be involved in Okinawan studies. She also discussed how far Okinawan studies has come and provided commentary on what is needed in the future of the field, emphasizing the roles of research, instruction, and community development as vital to the success of the Center for Okinawan Studies. The lecture was delivered to a packed room, and was followed with refreshments and *kachashi* to honor Dr. Chinen.

Photos: Dr. Joyce Chinen delivers her talk to a packed room.

On August 30th, Dr. Mamoru Akamine (University of the Ryūkyūs) gave a talk entitled “The Role of the Digitization Project in the Production of *The Ryukyu Kingdom: Cornerstone of East Asia*”. Dr. Akamine’s talk, co-sponsored by the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Library (Okinawa Collection) and the Department of History, focused on the process through which the work was translated into English. He discussed the international collaboration with Taiwan and China necessary to complete the project and how the digitization of Okinawan records are increasing accessibility to scholars outside these countries. More than sixty people attended the lecture held in the Center for Korean Studies’ auditorium.

Photos: (Top) Joyce Morikuni, Andy Curry, and Charlene Gima volunteering at the COS table. (Bottom) COS staff member Ella Camacho hard at work setting up for the festival.

Dr. Mamoru Akamine: Digitization in Production of THE RYUKYU KINGDOM

COS at the 35th Annual Okinawan Festival

COS participated in the 35th Annual Okinawan Festival, which was held at Kapiolani Park on September 2nd and 3rd 2017. Over two days, more than 40,000 people attended the festival, drawn to the food, entertainment, arts, crafts, and other cultural activities. Performances included traditional Ryukyuan dance, eisa, taiko, and shishimai performances. The highlight of the festival was a performance by renowned Okinawan singer Rimi Natsukawa. Prominent local Okinawans, like Governor Ige, stopped by the COS table as well. Thank you to all our volunteers who worked at the COS booth: Tokiko Bazzell, Charlene Gima, Andy Curry, Masato Ishida, Bob Huey, Lonny Carlile, Joyce Morikuni, Ella Camacho, Megumi Chibana, Mamoru Akamine, and Masayuki Dana.

Photos: (Top) Joyce Morikuni, Andy Curry, and Charlene Gima volunteering at the COS table. (Bottom) COS staff member Ella Camacho hard at work setting up for the festival.

Dr. Joyce Chinen: Retirement & Reflections on Okinawan Studies

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Photos: Dr. Joyce Chinen delivers her talk to a packed room.
50 Years: UH Postgraduate Medical Education Program at Chubu Hospital

Celebrating 50 years of history between Okinawa Chubu Hospital and the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, COS held a public lecture on Sunday, November 5th at the Center for Korean Studies. The lecture, entitled “50th Anniversary of the Chubu Hospital and UHM Education Exchange”, was cosponsored with the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

The lecture featured keynote speaker Dr. Kaoru Ashimine, Director of the UH Postgraduate Medical Education Program at Chubu Hospital, and guest speakers Dr. Satoru Izutsu, Vice Dean of the UHM John A. Burns School of Medicine, Dr. Junji Machi of Kuakini Medical Center and current professor of the program, and Ms. Ann Ito, Director of the UHM Kokua Program and daughter of Steven Chinen, who helped to establish the program. Over the past 50 years, the program has helped train hundreds of Japanese physicians — the majority of them have remained in Okinawa Prefecture to practice medicine.

Women’s Voices, Women Speak

Four women shared their experiences from the June 2017 International Women’s Network Against Militarism Conference in Naha, Okinawa. The talk took place on September 22nd, with Ellen-Rae Cachola, Kasha Ho, Dr. Kim Compoc, and Aiko Yamashiro (pictured L-R), sharing deeply personal experiences from the trip including visits to Camp Schwab and Henoko and participating in an Irei no Hi event. Professor Mari Matsuda (UHM Law School) was the respondent. Thank you to all the speakers for sharing their stories.

Dr. Hiroshi Segi: Okinawa and Its Agony

On October 6th, Professor Hiroshi Segi (Meiji University Graduate School of Law), a visiting scholar at the UHM Law School, discussed his thirty-plus years as a judge in Japan in a co-sponsored lecture with UHM Law Pacific-Asian Legal Studies Program. Professor Segi spent part of his tenure as a district court judge in Okinawa where he ruled against residents living near Kadena Air Base who were appealing for a ban on night flights. In this talk, he addressed controversial court rulings in Japan and discussed how they illustrated the problems with the Japanese judicial system. These issues are especially apparent in cases involving the U.S. military, preventing social justice activists from winning cases.
From the Library: News around the Okinawa Collection

The Okinawa Collection, both special and regular, continues to draw numerous researchers and visitors, and this academic year, the Library invited Professor Masayuki Dana (Director, Okinawa Prefecture Museum & Art Museum) who gave the lecture, “Kafu (Genealogy) in Okinawa: An Overview & Examination of the Uchima Family Documents,” on August 31, 2017 (Fig. 1). About 60 people attended the event, among those were the Okinawan Genealogy Society of Hawai‘i (OGSH) members.

In late November, Dr. Chen Zhenghong (陳正宏) of Fudan University (China) and Dr. Takashi Takatsu (高津孝) of Kagoshima University (Fig. 2) visited the Library to examine some Chinese resources in the Sakamaki/Hawley Collection. These two Chinese classics scholars were ecstatic to see the actual copies of Nanpo bunshū (南浦文集) which was printed with “old” moveable type (Fig. 3). In Japan “old” (as opposed to the later moveable type printing) moveable type printing existed only for 50 years in the Edo period, thus the Library’s copies are extremely rare, even in Japan.

UHM Library has received generous gift items. The notable additions to the Okinawa Collection are: Okinawa, the birthplace of karate (in processing) from the publisher; Pathway to peace: document of experiences by former Okinawan POWs from COS; Utakata (12 CDs) from a vocalist from a band called The Boom in Okinawa. These are just a few of the many gifts that the Library receives from individuals and institutions. Ippei nifei debitan.
—Sachiko Iwabuchi, Okinawa Studies Librarian

Related Links:
https://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/okinawa/blog/new-item-okinawa-min-yo-cds

Sachiko Iwabuchi is the Okinawan Studies Librarian and can be found in room 402 of the Asia Collection Department at Hamilton Library or contacted at sachiko.iwabuchi@hawaii.edu. The Okinawa Collection houses many rare resources with a focus on the humanities, social sciences, performing arts, and linguistics.
As the inaugural newsletter for the Center for Okinawan Studies, the goal of COS News is to report on the events sponsored by the Center and to highlight the activities of students, faculty, visiting scholars, and community members who are involved in the field of Okinawan Studies and studies of the Ryukyu Archipelago.

To sign up for COS News and other announcements by email, please contact cos@hawaii.edu to be added to our email listserv.

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Special Anouncements

COS Matsuro & Tsuruko Nakasone Endowment Fund
Student Travel Grant
Deadline: February 1st, 2018

Contact COS or visit manoa.hawaii.edu/okinawa for more information.