Director Dr. Takeda expresses his hopes for FY2010.

JSPS San Francisco has stimulated academic exchanges and cooperation programs over not only the West Coast, but the whole of the United States as well as Canada since its establishment in April 2003.

JSPS SF has given special focus to the following areas, “holding symposia with the universities in the US and Canada to create new science exchange,” “introducing JSPS Fellowship Programs to promote science exchange,” “creating a network amongst Japanese postdoctoral fellows,” “creating a network amongst administrative officers of Japanese universities studying in the US,” “creating a network amongst faculties of Japanese universities studying in the US,” and “supporting the activities of Japanese universities branch offices in the US.”

As for holding symposia, JSPS SF co-organized the “Climate Change and Subsistence in Prehistoric Japan” with the Center for the Japanese Studies, UC Berkeley in June 2010. JSPS SF will co-organize the “Borderlessness and Japanese Youth Culture” symposium with McGill University in Montreal in Oct. 2010 and the “Kabuki Negotiating Borders” symposium with University of Hawaii in Manoa in Nov. 2010.

Today, all of Japan is opening up to the outside world amidst the rapid progression of internationalization. Nine Japanese universities have opened their branch offices in the San Francisco Bay Area to stimulate the academic exchange between Japan and the US. On top of that, another university will open its branch office in Oct. 2010. The Japanese University Network in the Bay Area, called JUNBA, was organized in August of 2006 to create more active academic exchange by collaborating with individual universities. JSPS San Francisco serves the administrative function of JUNBA. The Fifth JUNBA Summit, called “JUNBA 2011”, will be held in the SF Bay Area in January 2011.

JSPS San Francisco strives to promote even further international scientific exchange across a wide spectrum of research fields. In this endeavor, we would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and support.

JSPS San Francisco welcomes new Program Coordinators

Yoshihiro Shiratori, joined our office as Program Coordinator to oversee accounting affairs and coordinate gatherings. Last year he worked at JSPS headquarters in the Asian Program Division and he coordinated joint events and programs with other Asian countries. Before that, he had been working for the general affairs division of Kitami Institute of Technology. He is eager to learn about university operations and admission systems in the United States. He is planning to travel around the United States and have fun with his family.

Ai Furushima, came from Kagawa University. As program coordinator, she takes charge of administrative affairs for the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) and also coordinates gatherings for Japanese university administrative staff who are working or training in the U.S. Last year she worked at JSPS headquarters in charge of one of the international science programs which supports Japanese universities to cooperate with advanced research institutions in other countries. Before that, she had been working for coordinating training plans for administrative staff of Kagawa University. She is very interested in university administrative staff development in the U.S. During her stay in San Francisco, she wants to improve her English skills, and also make friends and go sightseeing, especially to world heritage sites and other wilderness parks in the US.

Mayuko Nakai as Program Coordinator, manages the JSPS SF website and edits the newsletter. Before coming to the office, she worked at JSPS headquarters in charge of one of the international programs which supports Japanese universities in sending young researchers abroad. Before that, she worked in the personnel and labor department at The University of Tokyo. She is eager to have a lot of experiences which she can’t have in Japan and communicate with many people through visiting universities and research institutions. Moreover she is looking forward to experiencing cultures different from Japan and visiting many places across the country.

JSPS San Francisco Newsletter/Vol.18/June 2010
For the 7th year in a row the Japan Pavilion (a group of Japanese organizations abridged by the Japan Information Center of the Consulate General of Japan, San Francisco) invited JSPS to participate at this year’s exhibit in the Hotel Kabuki, during the first two-day celebration of the 43rd Annual Cherry Blossom Festival.

Although San Francisco was rainy on both April 10th and 11th, everyone enjoyed the festival and the Japan Pavilion inside Hotel Kabuki still had a good circulation of visitors. We were all given the opportunity to advertise ourselves with the Pavilion, to draw more people down to Hotel Kabuki.

Inside the Imperial Ball Room B at the Hotel Kabuki, the JSPS staff prepared a booth with many Japan-related organizations and groups such as the Japan Information Center of the Consulate General of Japan, San Francisco and the Japan Society and so on. Osaka University San Francisco Center also branched off the Japan Pavilion and rented a booth.

We displayed a beautiful and informative booth – featuring JSPS brochures and information packets, fellowship guideline handouts, and the book ‘Life in Japan for Foreign Researchers’. The booth was constantly manned by the staff of our office. Many visitors were interested in JSPS activities and information on the fellowship programs. Some of them, scientists and students, were listening attentively to our explanation about JSPS. It was also a good opportunity for JSPS to connect with new people, and for the newest members of our office, Yoshihiro Shiratori, Ai Furushima and Mayuko Nakai, to speak about JSPS in English. We look forward to this opportunity again next year.

On May 28th, JSPS San Francisco held its 14th “Gathering of JSPS Japanese Fellows” in the JSPS San Francisco office. These meetings are meant to promote cross-disciplinary exchange among Japanese researchers laboring in the US. While serving to deepen the friendly relationships amongst them, the meeting also provides the researchers with an opportunity to build working networks. Participating in this year’s first gathering were about 20 researchers, many of whom were on JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research Abroad and Research Fellowships for Young Scientists. Still others were invited from among Japanese researchers currently residing in the US.

The meeting started with greetings from JSPS San Francisco director Prof. Seishi Takeda. Time was set aside for the participants to introduce themselves and briefly describe their research work through PowerPoint. Participants eagerly listened to each presenter’s research work. After their presentation, they engaged each other in free conversation about their diverse activities and experiences in the US in a pleasantly relaxed atmosphere. Giving them a context to delve deeper into each other’s work, this further energized their discussions. It is hoped that such vibrant interchange will lead to wider networking among Japanese researchers in the US. JSPS San Francisco will continue to play an important role in providing such an opportunity for network building events among young Japanese researchers.
EVENTS OF SPRING 2010

JSPS staff visits the first lecture of D-Learning Program in FY2010 at Osaka University San Francisco Center

JSPS staff visited the first lecture of D-Learning Program in FY2010 at Osaka University San Francisco Center on April 15th. Osaka University started the D-Learning Program in 2005 and this year’s program theme is “World Affairs Now – From San Francisco” given by many lecturers in a variety of fields. The first lecturer was Consul General Yasumasa Nagamine of the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco. His lecture called “Relationship between Japan and the U.S. and International Order” included his own experiences in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and useful advice for students.

Two other Japanese universities, Kagoshima University and Kyushu University, also have long distance live lectures from their own Bay Area’s office.

The following are the websites of those offices in Bay Area.

- Osaka University San Francisco Center
- Kagoshima University North American Center
  [http://hh.kuas.kagoshima-u.ac.jp/kouhou/kucip/siliconvalley.html](http://hh.kuas.kagoshima-u.ac.jp/kouhou/kucip/siliconvalley.html)
- Kyushu University California Office
  [http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/california/](http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/california/)

The 4th meeting for university administration officers in the U.S.

JSPS San Francisco held the 4th meeting for university administration officers in the U.S, on June 2nd.

The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and establish a network between administration officers from Japanese universities, which are based around the San Francisco Bay area. The participants were from Osaka University, Kyushu University, Tokyo University of Science, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) who joined the meeting as LEAP (Long-term Educational Administrators Program for International Exchange), JSPS Washington office and San Francisco office. Participants briefly introduced themselves and exchanged opinions.

The meeting was held at the same time as the 2010 NAFSA event.
EVENTS OF SPRING 2010

Symposium and workshop held co-sponsored
by UCB, JSPS and the Henry Luce Foundation

On June 19 & 20, a symposium and a workshop titled “Climate Change and Subsistence in Prehistoric Japan” was held. It was co-sponsored by Center for Japanese Studies, Institute of East Asian Studies, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and the Henry Luce Foundation. Starting with the opening remarks of Prof. Junko Habu, UC Berkeley, this event included 3 lectures from Japanese universities. In this two day public event, scientists and archaeologists discussed climate and subsistence change in Prehistoric Japan from diverse data. It was a meaningful event to disseminate results of Japanese archeology to American scholars and the general public.

The 1st meeting for university faculty members in the U.S.

JSPS San Francisco held the 1st meeting for university faculty members in the U.S. on June 25th.

The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and establish a network among faculty members from Japanese universities, who are researching in the U.S. There were about 20 participants who attended this gathering. Participants briefly introduced themselves and exchanged opinions about the difference in the working environment at universities in Japan and the U.S. It was a good opportunity to establish networks useful in the days ahead as well. We hope we will continue to have this meeting in the future.

JSPS San Francisco Always Welcomes Your News

We are looking forward to hearing your news regarding international related events and so on.

If you have any news about your institution or your research, please feel free to ask us about including it in this newsletter.

This newsletter will be distributed to international sections in Japanese universities and subscribers in the Bay Area.

As always, should you have any specific questions or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, feel free to contact us at webmaster@jspsusa-sf.org.

Check out our website!
www.jspsusa-sf.org
VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY IN THE BAY AREA

JSPS Advisors Attended the CSHE’s Lecture

On April 13th, Mr. Taniai and Mr. Yamamoto, Advisers for the JSPS San Francisco attended a lecture at the Center for Studies in Higher Education (CSHE) at the University of California (UC) Berkeley.

Cristina González, Professor of Spanish and Education and former administrator at UC Davis, gave a presentation about her upcoming book titled “Clark Kerr’s University of California: Leadership, Diversity and Planning in Higher Education” (Transaction Publisher, Fall 2010).

Although her comments were applicable to other American public research universities, her talk focused on Clark Kerr and the University of California.

Clark Kerr was UC Berkeley’s chancellor from 1952 to 1958. And in 1958 he became UC’s president. He is very famous as the chief architect of the California Master Plan for Higher Education (enacted in 1960) that guided California public higher education for about five decades and is still a national and international model.

“Kerr was a ‘Hedgehog’,” Prof. González said.

According to an old Greek metaphor, “the fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing.” Kerr used this metaphor to distinguish between two types of leaders: shrewd “foxes” and visionary “hedgehogs”. Kerr saw himself as one of the last “hedgehogs” and thought that universities today were facing such difficult times that needed “foxes” to lead them. But, Prof. González disagrees with this aspect of Kerr’s thinking. She believes that at this moment of crisis, vision is more necessary than ever before.

Noting that the best leaders are both hedgehog and fox, with one side dominant over the other, Prof González compared two men. One is of course Clark Kerr, the other is David P. Gardner, the 17th president of UC.

Kerr had a “fox” side to his personality, but was primarily a “hedgehog” who crafted the California Master Plan for Higher Education and the idea of systemic excellence for UC.

Gardner had some “hedgehog” qualities, but was primarily a “fox” who put his shrewdness at the service of the vision crafted by Kerr and obtained a great deal of money for UC, turning it into an academic superpower.

Some moments in history calls for “hedgehogs”, others call for “foxes”. Kerr and Gardner were right for the times in which they lived. Prof. González thinks that the present moment calls for “hedgehogs”, not for “foxes”.

Cristina González (Ph.D. Indiana University) is Professor of Spanish and Education at the University of California, Davis, where she previously served as Dean of Graduate Studies and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor. Her research and teaching have focused on medieval and early modern Hispanic literature, contemporary Hispanic culture and Latino identity, as well as the history of higher education, educational policy and leadership and diversity issues.
Prof. González discussed two additional ideas. The first one is the “hedgehog concept”, a term borrowed from Jim Collins which means vision—the unique vision of an institution. The second one is the term “fox culture”, a term that she coined to refer to the free-for-all mentality that developed in the United States in the 1980s, when the gap between rich and poor grew and money became very important. American universities started to hire “foxes” to lead them at that point.

According to Prof. González, at present there is a great deal of “fox fatigue” in the country. The 2008 presidential election showed that the country was ready for a “hedgehog”—Barak Obama. Prof. González thinks that universities should follow suit and begin appointing “hedgehogs” to lead them too. “Universities need to look for the Clark Kerrs of the future,” she said.

Prof. Gonzalez is in favor of having leadership teams that, without excluding “foxes”, include a critical mass of “hedgehogs”, and that are diverse in terms of gender and ethnicity, so that they can craft a new “hedgehog concept” or vision that is appropriate for the current circumstances of this country, which is one of the most diverse countries in the world.

“We need to do succession planning in order to identify and mentor the leaders of the future, and these leaders have to be diverse in terms of gender and ethnicity, as well as in terms of leadership styles. That is, we need a lot more women, minorities and hedgehogs as leaders,” she said. She concluded that the Clark Kerrs of the future might be women and/or minorities. “Indeed they might not look like Clark Kerr at all!”

It was a really good opportunity to know about Clark Kerr and what is requested for the University of California.

And,

Which do we Japanese need?
Hedgehogs? Or Foxes?

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**BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS**

**The “JUNBA General Assembly Meeting 2010” was held on April 27th**

On April 27th, JUNBA held its 4th general assembly meeting. The purpose of such a meeting is to broadly report on JUNBA’s affairs, over the course of an entire year. This was the 4th general assembly meeting for JUNBA, bringing together about 20 participants. In the meeting, officers of JUNBA introduced JUNBA president Mr. Matsuo and the board members. After that, the officers of JUNBA introduced a report on JUNBA’s affairs of FY2009 and presented a plan for FY2010. In the second half, a lecture by Mr. Masazumi Ishii, Visiting Professor of Shizuoka University and Managing Director of AZCA, Inc. was held. The audiences listened carefully to the lecture called “Where does Silicon Valley go?”, and they had a lively question and answer session. After the meeting, a reception was held for the purpose of networking among JUNBA members.

**JUNBA Website** [http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/junba/](http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/junba/)

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**JUNBA**

**Japanese University Network in the Bay Area**

JUNBA (Japanese University Network in the Bay Area) comprises a network of Japanese universities with overseas offices in the San Francisco Bay Area. The mission of JUNBA is to contribute to the betterment of education, research and business creation both in Japan and the U.S. through a support of internationalization activities, personnel training of Japanese universities and a stimulation of IAG Collaborations between Japan and the U.S.
Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.

Dr. Kimi AKITA

2004: B.A., Department of English, Aichi Prefectural University
2006: M.A., Department of Linguistics, Kobe University
2007-2009: JSPS Research Fellow (DC2)
2009: Ph.D., Department of Linguistics, Kobe University
2009: JSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Department of Language and Information Sciences, the University of Tokyo / Visiting scholar at the Linguistics Department, University of California, Berkeley

Q1 Why did you choose the U.S. to pursue your research?

I chose this country for two reasons. First, it is generally leading the world of linguistics. Second, the Berkeley Linguistics Department is one of the best-formed linguistics departments in the world, which consists of a number of experts in linguistic theory and documentation. The department also published a landmark volume on mimetics in 1994. Its easy access to Stanford and other UC campuses was another attraction.

Q2 What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.? How is it different from your lab in Japan?

I was rather impressed with the well-organized courses and the instructors’ enthusiasm for education. Many Japanese universities do not even have a department specialized to linguistics. And most linguistics departments in Japan cover only a few research areas. This situation makes it almost impossible to learn linguistics sufficiently without going abroad.

Q3 What merits do you derive from conducting your research in the U.S.?

I am benefiting more than I expected from this research stay. Berkeley is recently known as the origin and center of “Construction Grammar” and “Frame Semantics”. To tell the truth, when I was in Japan, I was skeptical about these two “maximalist” approaches to language description due to the apparently excessive extensiveness of their possible coverage. However, I could clear up my misunderstanding to “feel” their sincere belief that being comprehensive is the steadiest and most reliable contribution to language research, which will not collapse even if the frameworks themselves become out of date. I am now inside the maximal scope, which turned out to work amazingly well in the analysis of mimetics.

Q4 What is your dream? And do you have any advice about doing research abroad for young researchers?

My questions about language have never stopped accumulating since childhood. I want to find out as many truths of language and human cognition as possible on empirical grounds, which have been crucially lacking in the traditional study of mimetics.

It is not very common for scholars in humanities to come abroad to make a research stay like this. However, some essential things, like theorists’ belief and long-range view, are too inward to see or hear over the Pacific. Once a dish comes within the reach of your chopsticks, you can feel it, smell it, and taste it. And it might be your favorite.
Yukio NAKANO has been studying history of twentieth-century Russian literature, and his research interests are problems on “sense of alienation” and “multiplicity of visions” in Russian emigrant literature. He has been a JSPS fellow at Stanford University since 2009.

Q1 Why did you choose the U.S. to pursue your research?

In my field, the study of Russian emigrant literature, Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University is famous for having one of the biggest collections. My main reason is to use these archival materials. The second reason is that my supervisor, Professor Fleishman, is an authority in the field of Russian emigrant literature. It may sound odd that I’m studying Russian literature in the United States. But, concerning the archival materials, you can find more materials on Russian emigrant literature in the United States than in any other country, including Russia. The same opinion could be heard from the researchers in other fields on Russian emigrants. Since the Second World War, the U.S. has been the center of Russian emigrant culture and scholarly research. Utilizing the potentials of the emigrants from Europe, the U.S. developed the educational system of Slavic scholars and refined their disciplines. Along with UC Berkeley, Stanford has a long tradition in Slavic studies and has intensively collected the manuscripts and books from Russian emigrants and their researchers. So, I always find it exciting to do my research in this environment.

Q2 What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.? How is it different from your lab in Japan?

I had an impression that at Stanford every researcher was afforded sufficient privileges, at least, in using libraries and archives. As a visiting scholar, you can use various materials including books, journals, visual and sound materials. You have a lot of chances to attend the lectures and seminars of famous scholars the world over. Actually, the lectures of famous literary scholars such as Gayatri Spivak and Tzvetan Todorov made a strong impression on me. And, besides working in projects, researchers in humanities scarcely conduct group research and don’t have regular meetings at laboratories or departments. In other words, using the chances in lectures and seminars, we are required to actively take part in discussions to communicate with staffs, students and other people. In this sense, there is no difference between Japan and the U.S.

Q3 What merits do you derive from conducting your research in the U.S.?

You can find various merits in conducting research in the U.S. You have more chances to use a lot of libraries and archival materials that you can’t find in any other country. And you can get acquainted with the people in the U.S. and from other countries. This point is especially important for Japanese researchers planning to organize conferences and conduct international joint researches in Japan. At the annual congress in American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) you can meet various researchers specializing in various fields in the U.S. and from other countries. This congress gives you a chance to know the organizing process of the congress and panel discussions in the U.S. Experience in the U.S. gives you not only the knowledge you need, but also the way you get to this knowledge. Concerning the output, the presentations in the U.S. will have a wider audience than in Japan.

Q4 What is your dream? And do you have any advice about doing research abroad for young researchers?

My dream is very simple. To continue studying literature. And I hope my researches will contribute to understanding other cultures. For the researcher planning to research in the U.S., I’d like to advise them to keep in touch with the Japanese community. When I came to the U.S., I had few acquaintances at Stanford and little information about the issues of lodging and official documents. So I had trouble with finding an apartment. On the websites and the mailing list of the Japanese community, you can find a lot of useful information on life in the U.S. And I suggest they contact the Japanese community before they arrive in the U.S. I am sure that the information there will help them.
Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.

Dr. Shingo IITAKA
1998: B.A. in History, Keio University
2001: M.A. in Social Anthropology, Tokyo Metropolitan University
2007: Joint Researcher of the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan
2008: JSPS Research Fellow (PD) at the University of Tsukuba
2009: Ph.D. in Social Anthropology, Tokyo Metropolitan University
2010: Visiting Research Scholar at the Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai’i at Manoa (through the Excellent Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program of JSPS)

Shingo IITAKA has studied Pacific Islands societies from anthropological and historical perspectives. His research interests include colonial experiences, memories of the Pacific War, and national identity seen from the islands’ point of view. He has conducted a series of field researches in the Republic of Palau and Okinawa Prefecture, Japan since 2002 and obtained his Ph.D. in social anthropology from Tokyo Metropolitan University in 2009. His Ph.D. thesis was titled “Palauans’ Colonial Experiences under the Japanese Administration”.

Dr. Iitaka has been a JSPS Research Fellow (PD) at the University of Tsukuba since 2008. Currently, he pays special attention to the struggle between tradition and modernity in post-colonial Micronesian societies in his research project titled “Social Anthropological Study on the Construction of Traditional Knowledge through Land Disputes in Post-Colonial Micronesia”. Through the Excellent Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program of JSPS, Dr. Iitaka was appointed as a Visiting Research Scholar at the Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai’i at Manoa in April 2010.

Q1 Why did you choose the U.S. to pursue your research?

The most important reason is the favorable research environment in the U.S. The University of Hawai’i at Manoa is one of the leading research institutions for the study of the Pacific Islands. Here, I have opportunities to meet and exchange viewpoints with scholars enjoying world fame, and have access to rare documents essential to my research.

Q2 What is your impression of the research environment in the U.S.? How is it different from your lab in Japan?

First of all, I am very impressed by the openness and generosity. University libraries are open to the public and there are a lot of outreaching activities on campus. The schedule of events, including final oral defenses of dissertations and theses, is updated on the university’s web site. Second, I am impressed by the cultural diversity of the lab. People in various generations and from different ethnic origins get together to discuss not only academic topics but various matters related to their background.

Q3 What merits do you derive from conducting your research in the U.S.?

I have derived great benefit from access to various facilities here in the University of Hawai’i at Manoa. I have spent a fruitful time reading through materials at the Pacific Collection at the Hamilton Library. The collection, including rare ethnography, historical documents, microfilms, and audio-visual materials, is world famous and indispensable for me to pursue my research and achieve high-quality results. At the same time, I have chances to communicate with many scholars and students of various disciplines, who are interested in the Pacific Islands. Conversations with the staff of the Department of Anthropology, to which I am affiliated, the Department of History, the Center for Pacific Islands Studies, and the East-West Center will broaden my research perspective. Moreover, these communications can yield important opportunities for collaboration, given the fact that Japan’s colonialism in the Pacific is not yet known by scholars from other nations. It is impossible to have such opportunities in Japan.

Q4 What is your dream? And do you have any advice about doing research abroad for young researchers?

By applying what I learned in the University of Hawai’i at Manoa, I would like to do more field research and contribute to the future of Pacific Islands societies struggling between tradition and modernity. Through these experiences, I would like to be engaged in university education and promote cultural exchange between the Pacific Island countries and Japan. Lastly, I strongly recommend that young researchers in Japan go abroad, since the collaboration or communication with scholars at the leading institutions will certainly help our research to reach international standards. Furthermore, the newly constructed network with foreign scholars and students will be a lifelong treasure.