Greetings from the Director

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Paul I. and Hisako Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies. I wish to thank everyone who helped me to navigate my first year as Center Director. Filling Fred Notehelfer’s shoes was always going to be impossible, but through the efforts of the full membership of the Faculty Advisory Committee, and the expertise and supreme patience of Mariko Bird, the Center’s Assistant Director, we managed to assemble a successful and exciting calendar of events and to continue the Center’s work in providing graduate fellowships, faculty grants, and community outreach grants. I invite you to peruse the Center website for a full accounting of our recent activities.

As we begin the academic year, we welcome our new Terasaki Chair in U.S.-Japan Relations, Historian of Science Shigeru Nakayama. I would like to thank our colleague, Professor Sharon Traweek, for spearheading the effort to recruit Professor Nakayama for the Chair. Tom Rimer, who held the Chair for three years, has retired from UCLA, but we hope and expect to see Tom at various Center events. Thank you, Tom, for your continued contribution to our community.

We also welcome our first Terasaki Postdoctoral Fellow, Assistant Professor Aaron Moore of Arizona State University. Like Professor Nakayama, Professor Moore will teach in the History Department, and both visitors will give talks in the Center’s colloquium series.

On a very sad note, we say goodbye to Professor Miriam Silverberg, one of the most vibrant and prolific members of the Center for many years. Miriam passed away this past March after a long illness. A wonderful symposium that Miriam had begun to organize before her retirement was pushed to fruition by our colleague Professor Mariko Tamanoi and others and held in Miriam’s honor this past December. We all miss Miriam tremendously.

In the coming year, the Center will continue its normal busy schedule, a tentative calendar for which appears in these pages. There will be fewer colloquium speakers during the Fall term in order to free up a few dates for interviews of candidates for the Terasaki Chair in the Study of Contemporary Japan. Center-affiliated faculty are deeply involved in the interview process, and we hope to welcome a distinguished senior scholar to UCLA very soon.

There is one staffing change to announce. Vince Lim, who did a terrific job with the newsletter and the Center website, has moved on to graduate school. Lorena Olvera, who joined us last Fall, will now work full-time and will add Vince’s duties to her ever-growing list of responsibilities. Good luck to Vince and Lorena!

Finally, I wish to thank the generous donors whose support allows the Center and its affiliated faculty and students to pursue their Japan-focused research interests, and to interact with members of the larger community in so many interesting, fruitful ways. To Paul and Hisako Terasaki, George and Sakaye Aratani, Herbert and Helen Kawahara, Ralph and Shirley Shapiro, the Nikkei Bruins, and everyone else who has contributed to the Center’s efforts, and on behalf of all of my colleagues, please accept my sincere and humble expression of thanks.

I wish everyone a happy, productive year.

Michael F. Thies, Director

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Calendar of Events 2008-09

Colloquium talks are held 3-5 pm Mondays at the UCLA Faculty Center unless otherwise noted

FALL 08

Oct 3 (Fri)  Memorial celebration of the life of Miriam Silverberg
Royce 314  5-7 pm; Co-sponsored with the Center for the Study of Women and the Department of History

Oct 6  Joint Seminar by Shigemi Nakagawa, Japanese Modern Literature and Comparative Literature at
Royce 243  Ritsumeikan University, and Barbara Sato, History, Seikei University.  2-5 pm

Oct 15 (Wed) Special lecture by Sabine Frühstück, Modern Japanese Culture Studies, UC Santa Barbara
PTA  After Heroism: Must “Real” Soldiers Die?

Oct 25 (Sat) Graduate Student Symposium: “Japan Translates: Words Between Languages from Classics to
Royce 306  Hyperculture.”  Organized by Jordan Smith, Comparative Literature, UCLA; Details to be announced

Oct 27  Colloquium with Michael Molasky, History, University of Minnesota
Sequoia  Japan's Jazz Coffeeshops: Cultural Underground or Otaku Refuge?

Nov 17  Special Lecture by John Lie, Sociology, UC Berkeley
PTA  Details to be announced

Nov 21-22  Conference: Recent Developments in the Study of Buddhist Art (Friday session open to the public)
Hacienda  Organized by Donald McCallum, Art History, UCLA; Details to be announced

WINTER 09

Jan 26  Colloquium with Cheryl Crowley, East Asian Languages and Culture, Emory University
Hacienda  Pictures in Comic Elegance: Yosa Buson and Haiga (haiku painting)

Feb 9  Colloquium with Cody Poulton, Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Victoria
Redwood  Topic to be announced

Feb 23  Colloquium with Aaron Moore, History, UCLA Terasaki Postdoctoral Fellow
Hacienda  “Technologies of Asian Development” (Kōa gijitsu): Japanese Engineers in China and Manchuria during
Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945)

Mar 5  Ikebana Exhibit by Kyoko Kassarjian and her Students, Sogetsu San Fernando Valley Branch
Ackerman  Flower Arrangement demonstration and exhibit accompanied by tea ceremony

Mar 9  Colloquium with Margarita Estévez-Abe, Political Economy, Harvard University
Bunce 4357  Topic to be announced

SPRING 09

April 13  Herman Ooms, History, UCLA
Beyond “Shinto”: Justifications for Rulership around the Tenmu Dynasty, 650-750

May 11  Shigeru Nakayama, History, UCLA Terasaki Chair in U.S.-Japan Relations
Sequoia  Science and Technology Conflict between U.S. And Japan in the Late 1980s

May 15-16  Workshop: Genealogy and Lineage in Early Japan
Royce  Organized by Torquil Duthie, Asian Languages & Cultures, UCLA
Shigeru Nakayama, an independent scholar, will join UCLA in late September as the fifth Terasaki Chair in U.S.-Japan Relations for the '08-'09 academic year. His teaching schedule includes History of Science in Japan 1600-present this fall, a senior seminar on Traditional Science in East Asia in winter quarter and a graduate seminar on Science and Society in Contemporary Japan spring. He will speak about "Science and Technology Conflict Between U.S. and Japan in the Late 1980s" at the Terasaki Center's May 11th colloquium.

Shigeru Nakayama graduated from Tokyo University with a degree in mathematical astronomy. He quit the field when he discovered from an American scientific journal that his analytical methods were outdated. He says the postwar Japanese scientific world had not recovered from wartime isolation and deep economic devastation. "I was more interested in social background of scientific study and turned my subject to the history of science, which was largely Marxist," says Nakayama. He left Japan and worked with renowned scholars Thomas Kuhn, Harvard University, and Joseph Needham, Cambridge University, before completing his doctorate in the History of Science at Harvard University. He started his teaching career at Tokyo University where he initiated the History of Science field. Upon retiring from Tokyo University, he joined Kanagawa University where he established the Science, Technology, and Society (STS) Program.

Nakayama is a leading scholar in his field, boasting 30 books published in Japanese including his five volume series A Social History of Science and Technology in Contemporary Japan; four of which were translated into English and are a standard reference for research on the period. Nakayama tells us that next, "I would like to translate Hideyo Noguchi, my only work on medical history and the only evaluation of his work on the history of science."

Nakayama's latest project returns to his background in astrophysics by asking an old mathematical question. "In order to understand Chinese astronomy in terms of modern Western [methodology], we have reduced Chinese computations into geometrical figures...but one particular concept could not be solved," says Nakayama. He speaks of the mathematical computations behind ancient Chinese planetary theory that predict how the planets move. Western theory is based on geometry while Chinese theory uses algebra. Nakayama spent forty years trying to reconcile the two. "At this particular moment, I am putting the final touch on the problem," says Nakayama.

Nakayama was seventeen when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and the topic is still difficult for him to discuss. "So far, I have written about my experience and account of Hiroshima a couple of times in Japanese but in English I just gave a talk at Berkeley," Nakayama says. He is considering publication of the Berkeley lecture, but has made no commitments.

We at the Center are thrilled to invite a scholar of such high caliber to the UCLA community. Please join us in welcoming Professor Nakayama to the campus.

Thomas Rimer, respected scholar of Japanese literature, is stepping down from the Chair after three years. Rimer taught Japanese literature and Theater arts to graduate and undergraduate students alike. His publication of Japanese Art of the Modern Age is near completion, combining a massive and masterful collection of articles by American and Japanese authorities on the topic. We at the Center express our gratitude for his significant contributions to Japanese studies and the UCLA campus.
Aaron Moore, Assistant Professor of History at Arizona State University, will join the UCLA History Department this September as the first Terasaki Postdoctoral Fellow. Moore earned his doctorate at Cornell University in Modern Japanese History and has also taught at Ohio University. He is on leave from Arizona State University to join the UCLA community for the '08-'09 academic year. As a fellow, Moore will speak in the Terasaki Center’s colloquium series and teach an undergraduate course, "Technology and Power in Modern Japan," in the spring.

"This course will examine the relation between technology and society in Japan through a consideration of key issues," writes Moore in an e-mail message. He includes issues ranging from urban planning and the environment to cyborg animation and pop culture. He will speak on "Technologies of Asian Development: Japanese Engineers in China and Manchuria during the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945)" at the Terasaki Center’s February 23rd colloquium.

Moore is working on his first book, Technological Visions of Modernity and Empire in Japan. The book, based on his dissertation "The Technological Imaginary of Imperial Japan, 1931-1945," focuses on technology not in the common understanding of the term, but what Moore calls "the idealistic values that have been associated with 'technology' and technological development. " Moore concentrates on "the values that Japanese bureaucrats, engineers, and intellectuals associated with technology as exhibited in their economic policies, technological projects, and social visions."

More information on Aaron Moore can be found at our website www.international.ucla.edu/japan/news/.

New Books by Center Faculty


Japan-related Classes at UCLA, 2008-09

Winter and Spring '09 schedules are tentative
Please consult the official schedule of classes to check schedules

Fall 2008
Anthro 191, Japanese Popular Culture/Tamanoi
Art Hist 114C, Japanese Art/McCallum
Art Hist 260C, Japanese Art/McCallum
Hist 97G- Variable Topics in East Asian History
Hist 171- Variable Topics in Japanese History/Nakayama
Japan 1- Elementary Modern Japanese
Japan 4- Intermediate Modern Japanese
Japan 50- Japanese Civilization
Japan 100A- Advanced Modern Japanese
Japan 110- Introduction to Classical Japanese
Japan M120/Ling M116- Introduction to Japanese Linguistics/Iwasaki
Japan C160- Japanese Buddhism/Bodiford
Japan 191B- Variable Topics: Modern Japan/Iwasaki
Japan C260- Japanese Buddhism/Bodiford
Japan 265A- Japanese Buddhist Texts/Bodiford

Winter 2009
Anthro 175S- Japan
Art His 114G- Archaeology of Japanese Islands
Art His C115C- Advanced Japanese Art
Asian 60- Introduction to Buddhism
Asian 61- Introduction to Zen Buddhism
Hist 172C- Japanese History: Modern, 1868- Present
Hist 173C- Shinto, Buddhism and Japanese Folk Religion
Hist 201M- Topics in History: Japan
Japan 2- Elementary Modern Japanese
Japan 5- Intermediate Modern Japanese
Japan 100B- Advanced Modern Japanese
Japan 101A- Advanced Readings in Modern Japanese
Japan 102A- Advanced Reading and Writing for Japanese-Heritage Speakers
Japan 130A- Readings in Modern Japanese Literature
Japan 140B- Readings in Classical Japanese Literature: Medieval
Japan 170- Japanese Tales of Supernatural

Spring 2009
History 9C- Introduction to Asian Civilizations: History of Japan
History 9CH- Introduction to Asian Civilizations: History of Japan (Honors)
Geog 139- Japan In the World: Culture, Place, and Global Connections/Faier
Hist 171- Variable Topics in Japanese History/Moore
Japan 3- Elementary Modern Japanese
Japan 6- Intermediate Modern Japanese
Japan 100C- Advanced Modern Japanese
Japan 101B- Advanced Readings in Modern Japanese
Japan 102B- Advanced Reading and Writing for Japanese-Heritage Speakers
Japan C149/C249- Introduction to Kambun and Other Literary Styles
Japan 154- Postwar Japanese Culture through Literature
Japan 235A- Seminar: Selected Topics in Modern Japanese Fiction
Japan 241A- Seminar: Japanese Classics

Resource Links:
UCLA Schedule of Classes: http://www.registrar.ucla.edu/schedule/schedulehome.aspx
Consulate General of Japan: http://www.la.us.emb-japan.go.jp/
The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles: http://www.jflalc.org/
For more links visit our webpage at http://www.international.ucla.edu/japan/resources/links.asp
A Workshop on Digital Resources in Japanese Law will be held sometime in February next year at the UCLA Library. As part of the workshop, Mr. Robert R. Britt, the Japanese legal resources specialist in Marion Gould Gallagher Law Library of the University of Washington, will introduce useful electronic resources for Japanese legal research. The session will be co-hosted by the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC), UCLA Center for Japanese Studies, and the UCLA Library. It is part of the e-resource training workshops series organized by the NCC throughout the U.S. with principal funding provided by a Japan Foundation Institutional Project Support Grant for Japanese Studies.

The Exhibition “East Asian Archaeology and Classic Architecture” will be on view in Charles E. Young Research Library lobby throughout fall 2008. In conjunction with it, the East Asian Library will present a series of public lectures during the fall quarter.


Major acquisitions during the fiscal year 2007/08 include Miriam Silverberg Collection and Yuji Ichioka Collection—Donation of private collections that originally belonged to the late professors Miriam Silverberg and Yuji Ichioka, who taught at UCLA for many years. The donation consists of more than twelve hundred volumes of Japanese books and one thousand volumes of books and serial issues.

Seisen Kindai Bungei Zasshū: Dai 8-13-yunitto 精選近代文芸雑誌集. 東京. 雄松堂書店, 2004-05. 2,401 microfiches—With the East Asian Library’s holdings of this set in thirteen units, the title reproduces all issues of sixty-eight journals in a variety of fields including literature, theater, film, art, women’s and youth studies, and modern history that were originally published in Japan between 1897 and 1945. The acquisition of this title was partially supported by the Multi-Volume Sets Project managed by the NCC.

Kokusai Eiga Shinbun 国際映画新聞: The Motion Picture Trade Review. 東京. ゆまに書房, 2006-08. 43 v. (v. 26-68)—A print reproduction of the monthly newspaper of the same title, which was originally published in Japan between 1927 and 1940, this was one of the most influential journals in the Japanese film industry of the time, distributing information and data on new releases and projects, box-office records, and changes in studio and distribution companies’ management and also publishing articles by the management boards of film studios, theater owners, and the censorship board. The acquisition of this title was supported by the UCLA Library.

Kenshi 県史/ Shishi 市史—Donation of sixty-nine titles in 544 volumes received collectively from five prefectures and forty-six cities all over Japan.

If you have any questions regarding the Japanese collection or recommendations for new acquisitions, please contact Toshie Marra at the East Asian Library (tel. 310-825-2765/ email: tmarra@library.ucla.edu)

(Contributed by Toshie Marra, Japanese Studies Librarian, East Asian Library)
Miriam Silverberg (1951-2008)

Miriam Silverberg passed away on March 16, 2008 from complications of Parkinson’s disease. Miriam, a Professor of History and an internationally celebrated scholar of modern Japan, was an active member of the Terasaki Center’s Faculty Advisory Committee and also served as Director of the Center for the Study of Women. Miriam received her PhD from the University of Chicago in 1984 and joined the UCLA faculty in 1989. Her first book, Changing Song: The Marxist Manifestos of Nakano Shigeharu, received the prestigious John K. Fairbank Prize in East Asian History in 1990. Her subsequent article on the social and cultural significance of the “modern girl” has been widely influential across many fields, and she also published pioneering essays on the ethnography of modern life, the culture of Japanese colonialism, and the question of war responsibility. Her encyclopedic examination of Japanese mass culture, Erotic Grotesque Nonsense: The Mass Culture of Japanese Modern Times, was published in 2007 by the University of California Press. Miriam was also an exceptionally dedicated teacher whose courses on Japanese popular culture drew hundreds of undergraduates. Many of the graduate students whom she trained are now teaching at universities across the country and will shape the field of Asian studies for years to come. Miriam had a profound impact at UCLA as a brilliant scholar, a devoted teacher, and a generous colleague and friend. She is greatly missed by us all.

A memorial gathering will take place on the evening of October 3 at UCLA. For details, please contact Andrew Miller, Center for the Study of Women, at (310) 825-0590.

60th Japan-America Student Conference

By Joshua Evan Schlachet

2008 marked the historic 60th gathering of the Japan-America Student Conference (JASC), a unique program dedicated to promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding between the two countries. The JASC, founded in 1934 by university students, remains student-run even today. Its tradition of student leadership is reflected in its alumni, including Henry Kissinger and former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. This year the JASC took place in four locations: Reed College, UCLA, the University of Montana, and Harvard University. Along the way, delegates from each country had the opportunity to participate in round table discussions, academic lectures, and forums, and interact with a diverse group of dedicated and motivated students.

This summer, we were proud to share our kanreki celebration with UCLA’s Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies. During our week on UCLA’s campus, our delegates explored the cultural and academic offerings of Southern California while engaging with the local community. Using the rich film and television presence in Los Angeles, the 60th JASC examined cross-cultural representations in film and media through presentations on the challenges of media direction in an international context and issues of genre and image in film. UCLA Professor Mariko Tamanoi delivered the keynote lecture at another event held at UCLA and raised questions of political participation in Japan and America. The JASC delegation also hosted a public forum on minority issues at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo, which featured prominent scholars including UCLA Professor Victor Bascara of the Asian American Studies Center. Our delegates took advantage of our time at UCLA to continue our round table
discussions, an academic cornerstone of the JASC program, to cover a diverse range of issues including scientific ethics, tradition and modernity, environmental communication, comparative law and society, and corporate social responsibility. Concluding our memorable stay, we were warmly received by The Honorable Junichi Ihara, Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles. The festivities included a toast delivered by Terasaki Center Director Michael Thies.

On behalf of the executive committee and the JASC delegates, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to the Terasaki Center for its generous support of our program and its dedication to our shared goal of constantly exploring and redefining the Japan-America relationship. For more information on JASC, please visit our website at http://www.iscdc.org.

Fellowship & Grant Information

Center-Sponsored Faculty Grant and Graduate Student Fellowship information is provided below. Application forms will be available at the Center office in mid-January 2009. Please visit http://www.international.ucla.edu/japan/funding/ for detailed description of each grant and fellowship and also for outside funding opportunities.

Important Dates: Application Deadline: February 27, 2009; Award Announcement: April 15, 2009

Faculty Small Grant: $7,000 maximum grants in the field of Japanese Studies for UCLA ladder faculty.
Faculty Exchange Programs and Symposia Grant: $7,000 maximum for organizing Conferences, Symposia, Workshops and Academic Exchange Programs involving Japanese universities/research institutions for UCLA ladder faculty.
The Sasakawa Fellowship: Up to $7,000 each for UCLA graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in Japanese studies.
The Sasakawa Language Fellowship: Up to $9,000 each for UCLA graduate students who are in Japan study field and plan to study Japanese language in Japan or in the United States.
The George and Sakaye Aratani Fellowship: Up to $7,000 each for UCLA graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in Japanese studies.
The George and Sakaye Aratani Field Experience Scholarship: $14,000 to $25,000 for dissertation-stage or professional-advanced-degree stage UCLA students to support an extended period of research and study in Japan.
Herbert and Helen Kawahara Fellowship: Up to $5,000 for UCLA graduate students who are not in the Japan study field and wish to develop Japan expertise as they pursue professional training in a given academic discipline.

Terasaki Programs

(Please refer to http://www.iscdc.org for more information)

Paul I. and Hisako Terasaki Chair in the Study of Contemporary Japan
This permanent Chair will bring an eminent scholar of contemporary Japan. A worldwide search is currently underway.

Paul I. Terasaki Chair in U.S.-Japan Relations
Designed to bring experts in Japanese studies and U.S.-Japan relations to the UCLA campus for one- to two-year terms, and will be appointed on a rotating basis. (Related article in Page 3)

Terasaki Community Outreach Program
Non-profit organizations are invited to apply for funding to co-sponsor exhibits and public seminars on subjects of broad interest dealing with Japan. A call for applications will be announced in late October, and the deadline is December 10, 2008.

Terasaki Postdoctoral Fellowship
The Fellow teaches one class, as well as participates in other Center programs such as the colloquium series and workshops. Applications will be made available on the Center’s website early next year; the deadline will be February 27, 2009. (Related article in Page 4)

Newsletter Staff: Mariko Bird and Lorena Olvera