



JSPS US Fellows Alumni Association

Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science US Alumni Newsletter

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Serving the community of the JSPS Alumni Association throughout the United States

Second JSPS-US Multidisciplinary Science Forum in Kalamazoo, MI

KALAMAZOO, Michigan USA (28 October, 2011)

The Second Multidisciplinary Science Forum was organized by the US JSPS Fellows Alumni Association at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Among the five *fora* held by the association to date, featuring speakers across various fields. The meeting took place on the campus of the Western Michigan University, hosted by Professors and JSPS Alumni Stephen Covell (Social Sciences) and Michael Famiano (Physics).

The event opened with remarks from Dr. John M. Dunn, president, Western Michigan University, and Dr. Hiroataka Sugawara, director, JSPS Washington Office, followed by



Prof. Covell (center) and Prof. Famiano (left).

Dr. Anthony Leggett, 2003 Nobel laureate in physics, who delivered the keynote address. Presentations were given by three invited speakers from the US and four from Japan on research spanning such fields as astrophysics, agriculture, medicine, and social science.

During the lunch session, JSPS Alumni Executive Committee

in collaboration with Ship for World Youth Alumni Association organized a bazaar to raise funds to support the earthquake relief efforts in Japan. This time we had Taiko, origami and calligraphy exhibitions that gave a brand new cultural touch to our lunch break.

The forum was attended by some 80 people and was open to the public. Students coming from China, Japan, Florida, and Illinois as well as from Western Michigan University participated in a special panel and poster session. After a great social and scientific exchange during the Forum, the fellows gathered early morning to share breakfast and hold the General Assembly.

For more details on the General Assembly, see page 3.



Participants of the Second JSPS-US Multi-disciplinary Science Forum in Kalamazoo, MI.

Prof. Anthony Halog awarded a 2-year research grant under the USDA/NIFA Sustainable Bioenergy Program

ORONO, MA - Dr. Anthony Halog, Assistant Professor of Industrial Ecology and LCA at the University of Maine, has been awarded recently a 2-year research grant under the USDA/NIFA Sustainable Bioenergy Program. The project which will start on August 2011 is about "Database Development for Integrated Sustainability Assessment of Forest Based Biofuels Supply Chain". To support the long-term goal for sustainable development of forest based bio-



Dr. Anthony Halog, Assistant Professor, University of Maine

economy in the US Northeast region, this project aims to develop a comprehensive database that will store reliable data representing critical sustainability criteria, metrics, variables and parameters relevant for biofuels supply chain development. Students will use this online database, tools and models for conducting case studies in integrated and life cycle sustainability assessment course.

Additionally, Dr. Halog is currently an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Research Fellow in Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA) where he is conducting research in the development and application of life cycle sustainability assessment (LCSA) to forest bioenergy value chains. He is based in Finland until the end of August 2011.

Moreover, two of his graduate students (Yosef Manik and Mason Earles) at the

Research Group for Industrial Ecology, LCA and Systems Sustainability (IELCASS) at UMaine, had received National Science Foundation travel grants to present their LCA research projects at the 15th Annual Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference and 5th International Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry in June 21-23 in Washington, D.C. The two students were selected from a competitive pool of highly qualified applicants in this year's NSF Scholars Program. Manik and Earles were selected because they represent the "best of the best" in advancing green and sustainable chemistry, according to Joyce Kilgore, staff liaison for the ACS Green Chemistry Institute, which organizes the conferences. Manik, from Indonesia, and Earles, from Oklahoma City, also won the second and third prizes in poster competition during the GradExpo 2011 at UMaine.

Focus: Asian Studies Program at Chapman University

ORANGE, CA - Chapman University is located in southern California, kitty-cornered between Disneyland and Newport Beach. Established in 1861, it has been an institute of undergraduate teaching, with a mission of "personalized education of distinction" for one hundred and fifty years. Chapman has close to seven thousand students; approximately five thousand are undergraduate.

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science has supported the growth of Asian Studies in fundamental, if not roundabout ways at Chapman. As a tenure-track faculty, I am a former postdoctoral fellow.

I came to Chapman in August 2006, a freshly minted Japanese history PhD from Stanford University. My specialty was East Asian science studies. At Chapman, I taught an array of East Asian history courses including surveys of Asia and modern Japan, the history of the samurai, modern Japanese social history and medicine and the body in East Asia. Since I wrote about medical modernization in Japan for my dissertation, I explored simi-

lar topics in my medical history course at Chapman. As I turned my dissertation into a book, I applied and received a JSPS postdoctoral fellowship for the 2008-09 academic year. Under the auspices of Professor Suzuki Akihito and Keio University, I spent a year in and out of the Shirogane Library at the Kitasato Institute, the Medical Library at Tokyo University, and the Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine Library. The fruit of this labor, *Making a National Disease: Beriberi, Medicine and Power in Modern Japan* has been accepted for publication at the University of Rochester Press. At Chapman, my teaching will continue to contribute to the growing field of East Asian science studies (a recent history major just entered the PhD in Medical History program at Johns Hopkins University) and through research. My second project, tentatively entitled *Nation from the Bottom Up: Disease, Toilets and Waste Management in Modern Japan*, focuses on the history of environmental hygiene in Japan across the twentieth century.

Despite being on the Pacific Rim, Chapman is a latecomer to the field of Asian Studies. Beginning Fall 2011, faculty who specialize in

Asia, from Religious Studies, History, Communication Studies, Art History and English (Japanese literature in translation), have come together for the first time and offered a minor in Asian Studies.

The curriculum is framed by religion, history and the artistic traditions, and also covers modernity, empire, war, and the globalization of the world market. There is much potential for growth within the Humanities and Social Sciences and even more for cross-college collaborations with Film, Business and the Sciences.

The goal of the Asian Studies faculty is to develop the minor into a major, and then transform the major into a center of research and study. Since Wilkinson College has welcomed Fulbright recipients and has sponsored a number of visiting faculty positions in the past, it is our eventual goal to attract Asia-based researchers who have projects that could involve Chapman in addition to more students interested in studying Asia.

Dr. Alexander Bay, Chapman University

2011 JSPS-US Alumni MSF at a Glance...

Keynote Speaker

Sir Anthony Leggett, Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics 2003

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,
"Can superconductors help with environmental and energy problems?"

Invited Speakers

Ross M. Welch

USDA-ARS, Robert W. Holley Center for Agriculture and Health, Ithaca, New York
"Improving Human Nutrition from the Ground Up: Linking Agriculture to Human Health"

Toshitaka Kajino

University of Tokyo, Department of Astronomy, Graduate School of Science
"Cosmology and the Formation of Elements in the Early Universe"

Satoko Fujiwara

University of Tokyo
"Establishing Religion through Textbooks: The Paradox of Religion Teaching (Teaching about Religions) in Japan"

Haruko Ishii

Hokkai-Gakuen University, Hokkaido Japan
"Theories and strategies of developing cross-cultural sensitivity; applying experiences in Japan"

Masaru Yarime

University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences
Sustainability Science as a Multidisciplinary Science for Understanding Complex Interactions between Natural, Human, and Social Systems"

Michael Waggoner

University of Northern Iowa
"International Developments in Religion & Education: Contexts and Controversies"

Brian Iritani

University of Washington, Department of Comparative Medicine
"Message body" FcγR1: A novel metabolic regulator controlling B Lymphocyte development, transformation, and whole-body metabolism"

For Program and Proceedings please go to the following link:

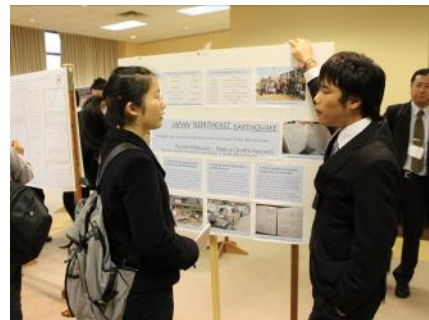
<http://www.jpspsusa.org/>



JSPS-US Alumni Executive Committee (Shamin Mirza, Blanca Kacouris, Dawn Doutrich and Ying Hu) with Sir Anthony Leggett.



Mr. Goda, Dawn Doutrich, Blanca Kacouris, and Ms. Fumi Kaneko from the JSPS WO.



Kazuto Matsuda illustrates his personal experience as a volunteer in the areas affected by the earthquake.



Presentation by John Eimes from Dept. of Biology, Wisconsin Univ.



Prof. Kajino and Prof. Ishii demonstrating Japanese calligraphy

Report on the October 2011 US-JSPS General Assembly Meeting

Dear fellow members,

After a great scientific exchange during the Forum, the fellows gathered early morning to share breakfast and hold the General Assembly. Following the highlights of the meeting:

Welcome to the new comers Adam J. Mellott, Brian Johnson, John Eimes, Baofeng Feng and Ranga Narayanan. They showed their skills in apple bobbing while being cheered on by the audience. Thanks to Michael Famiano for preparing the activity and introducing us to Michigan Apples!

Ms. Fumiyo Kaneko, Deputy Director of JSPS WO, congratulated the Alumni for a great Forum. JSPS US Alumni is growing strong and the success of the Forum was the results of the hard work of the executive committee, host fellows and their support team at WMU.

We reviewed the minutes from the previous General Assembly at Seattle and were approved unanimously.

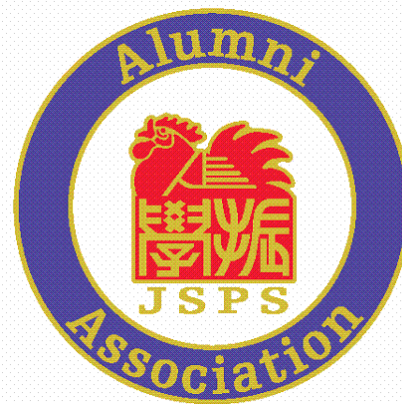
The by-laws were reviewed and changes were done on the Section of Membership as follows in Article 4:

Section 2: Individuals that are interested in pursuing and achieving the Alumni Association's objectives are eligible for the associated membership by being given permission from the chair of the executive committee.

The chair of the executive committee will consider granting associated membership for the candidates that are nominated by current active members of the alumni association. The associated members are welcome to attend scientific events and meetings of the alumni association. Associated members are not eligible for travel subsidies from JSPS.

Shamim gave the financial report stating that 59 fellows had paid their dues for 2011 and many others paid for 2012. Shamim encouraged the fellows to pay to 2012 in advance, and many did so.

We congratulated Anthony Halog as a recipient of the Bridge fellowship and requested him to give a brief presentation of the experience when he returns from Japan. Many fellows exchanged ideas and we reached to



the conclusion that the fellows receiving the Bridge fellowship should commit to attend the General Assembly and give a presentation so that the Alumni can know of the collaborations and exchanges. In this manner potential Bridge applicants could learn from the Bridge fellowship recipients and have concrete information regarding the application process and expectations.

It was agreed that the Bridge fellowship candidates should be active members of the Association for at least of 2 consecutive years at the time they apply for the program.

In regards to the next Bridge fellowships, Ms. Kaneko informed the attendees that the application would be available on the JSPS WO web site and she asked the fellows to apply promptly in December.

Dr. and Mrs. Sugawara thanked the fellows for their great efforts during the Forum and for all the words of appreciation from the alumni. Dr. Sugawara will finish his post at JSPS WO and then join the Okinawa Institute of Technology.

Anowar expressed warm thanks on behalf of the Alumni to Dr. Sugawara for his leadership and support towards the growth of the JSPS Alumni Association.

During the open discussion, fellows gave their suggestions to improve the next Forums. And those suggestions were to be included in the application "Call for Host Fellow and Host Institution of the 3rd MSF".

We finished the meeting by thanking again the host fellows, invited speakers present and JSPS staff for their support.

Dr. Blanca Chattin-Kacouris

Reminder:

Your Two JSPS Offices in the USA

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JSPS San Francisco Office

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Berkeley, CA 94704, U.S.A.

<http://www.jspsusa-sf.org/>

Alumni Spotlight: Prof. Dr. Shahidul Islam, University of Arkansas

Dr. Shahidul Islam, a JSPS alumni and serving as a Professor at the University of Arkansas. His research mission is to provide cutting-edge research and training in the field of plant biochemistry, plant based food sciences, and biologically active compounds from plant parts in relation to human health and nutrition. Dr. Islam's research focuses on understanding the food and medicinal values of fresh produces relating physiological functions.

Dr. Islam obtained his Ph.D. from the United Graduate School, Ehime University, Japan. Besides his Ph.D. research, he had the most distinctive research experiences in Japan as much as he worked for 3 different institutions, namely, Kagawa Univ., Chiba Univ., and National Research Center of Japan. His research projects cover an important field of biochemistry, namely, isolation and characterization of bioactive compounds from different plant parts. He is at present engaged in the study of antioxidants and drugs reported to be antimutagenic and anti-diabetic. He has shown that the leaves of sweetpotatoes (*Ipomoea batatas* L.), Bitter melon (*Momordica charantia* L.), Amaranth (*Amaranthus* L.), fish diet, rose & gladiolus flowers, etc. contain bioactive compounds that can prevent cancer and occurrence of other cardiovascular diseases. He is also credited in standardizing production methods of various crop plants including characterization of carbohydrate metabolism in tomatoes (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), and purification of some of its enzymes. He has published more than 125 research articles, book chapters and review papers in reputed national and international journals. Some of

his important publications have been featured in *J. Agric and Food Chemistry*, *J. Food Science*, *Biosci. Biochem. & Biotech.*, *Int. J. Cancer Research*, *HortScience*, *J. American Soc. hort. Sciences*, *Acta hort.*, *J. hort. Sci. & Biotechnology*, *J. Food Agr. Environment*, *J. Functional Foods & Chronic Diseases*, etc. Dr. Islam is also serving as editor and editorial board member of some national & international research Journals.

Dr. Islam has experience designing and leading truly collaborative, crops research and training programs and projects, including inter-disciplinary, inter-institutional and inter-country programs. The next few years will see him involved in research work pertaining to environmental stress faced by crop plants seeking solution from physiological and biochemical standpoint. He would also be engaged in productive tissue culture and molecular research for improvement of crops.

Dr. Islam is a member of numerous professional organizations such as the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition Policies and Strategies, American Society for horticultural sciences, International Society for horticultural sciences, American Society of plant biology, International Food, Agricultural and Environment Society, Gamma Sigma Xi- the Honor society, and Arkansas Academy of Science. Dr. Islam has received several major and minor research grants supported by different funding agencies such as USDA/AFRI, USDA/CSREES, USDA/CBG, USDA/FAS, Arkansas biomedical research, etc. Recently he has submitted proposals to NSF, USAID, USDA and other agencies. He has been offering courses in plant and

plant based food sciences which are open to graduate and undergraduate students in all disciplines. At present he is supervising and serves as a member of the thesis research committees of several graduate students.



More Info:

Anyone who is interested to collaborate with Dr. Islam can visit his faculty website at <http://grad.uapb.edu/programs/agricultural-regulations/shahidul-islam.html> or can send e-mail to islams@uapb.edu

Research Brief

Professor Jingbo Louise Liu, Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Lanzhou University of Technology.

Dr. Jingbo Louise Liu, a JSPS alum, an Associate Professor (Approved) at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Adjunct Professor at Lanzhou University of Technology has been successfully developed novel nanomaterials used for next generation of alternative energy, particularly proton exchange membrane fuel cells (PEMFCs). The overarching goal of her research lies in novel nanocatalyst development, fuel cell device construction and device performance improvement. Bravely, she explores the current hurdles in the fuel cell study, such as high cost of catalyst used at anode and H₂ storage, channel gas flow at cathode and flooding problem, low operational lifetime due to catalyst poisoning, and low behavior and stability due to electrode deformation. The critical step in preparation of PEMFC catalyst is deposition of homogenous Pt nanoparticles (NPs), while the CNTs aligned geometries are well maintained. This has been accomplished using a novel method cre-

ated by Dr. Liu, called “amphiphilic functionalization”. The fuel cell devices displayed superior (current density at 3000 mA/cm² and power density at 860 mW/cm²) electrochemical properties compared with the traditional design. Importantly, the Pt loading is dramatically reduced from 0.5 mg/cm² to 0.2 mg/cm² (see figure).

Currently, Dr. Jingbo Louise Liu is working at the Division of Advance Light Sources, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory as a user (June-August, 2011) to conduct research using soft X-ray synchrotron to understand

nanoparticles-particle integration and conduction band shift as function of particle size.

Contact Information:

Jingbo Louise Liu, PhD

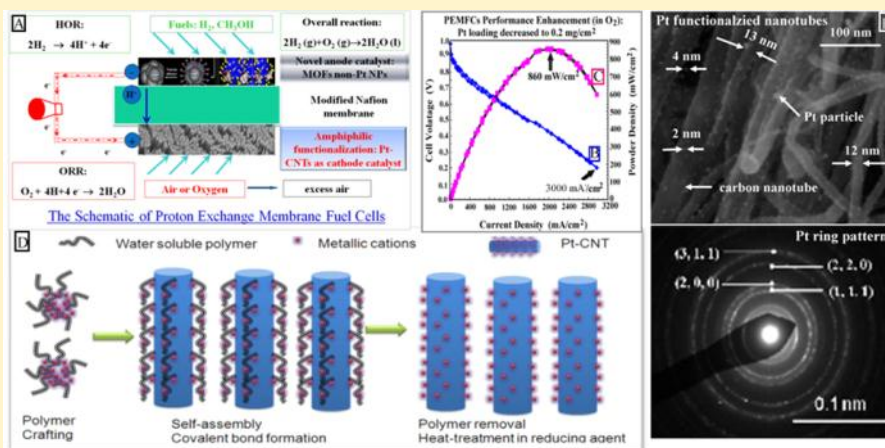
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To be announced soon...

Dates and Location for the 3rd

Multidisciplinary Science Forum

Check back in this space later.

Farewell

It is with an element of sadness that we bid goodbye to you Dr. Sugawara. We wish you the very best and know how fortunate Okinawa is to have enticed you away from us in the JSPS U.S.. You have been a wonderful leader and have encouraged each of us in the U.S. Alumni Association to develop and grow in our networking and our scientific career development.

You have provided the means for us to stay networked with our colleagues in Japan. As for the JSPS U.S. Alumni EC, you have kept us clear about our mission and have provided wise council. We have grown stronger under your tenure and have defined our organization.



We know that you have shown generosity and kindness to us throughout our time in the EC and that the high quality of our efforts with the Multidisciplinary Science Forums and the Bridge Fellowships is because to your leadership and example.

We truly have valued your openness, your wisdom, your intellect, your humor, and your quiet support. Know that we will miss you a lot. Still, we send you and your wife our warmest thoughts as you embark in your next scientific and life venture.

On behalf of the JSPS US Alumni, thank you very much.

Briefly Noted...

Special Thanks!

Our deepest gratitude to Ms. Karen West, Assistant to the Dean for Japan Program, for her leadership in supporting the organization to the Forum, to the Japan Soga Center for its generous sponsorship and to all the students volunteers from Western Michigan University.

We had a great time at your institution!

Prof. Paul Flikkema (JSPS Fellow 1998, Yokohama National University) visited Japan in June. He delivered a paper at the IEEE International Conference on Communications in Kyoto. He also gave an invited lecture at the laboratory of his 1998 fellowship host, Prof. Ryuji Kohno (Yokohama National University), and visited the laboratory of Prof. Shinichiro Haruyama at Keio University.

Dr. Andrea Molle, JSPS alum 2006/8, has recently joined Chapman University. He has also recently been appointed as Editor of the IAFOR Journal of the Social Sciences.

Request for Submissions

We are soliciting articles and postings from our alumni members for the next newsletter. Please send me (molle@chapman.edu) any contributions for the next newsletter.

Articles or news postings, large or small, may include any of the following:

- 1) Research -- Were you recently awarded a new grant or scientific project. Do you have a reference for a recent publication you're particularly proud of.
- 2) Honors -- Did you get a promotion? Did you receive an award for teaching or research? We want to know.
- 3) Collaborations -- Did you visit Japan this past year? Host any Japanese researchers at your US institution? Tell us about it.
- 4) Employment -- Looking for a post-doc for your lab? Know of a job at your institution that might interest alumni?
- 5) Personal -- Getting married? A new baby? A move to a different job/city? Let your friends at JSPS USA alumni chapter know about it.

Check past postings of our newsletter for ideas:
http://www.jspsusa.org/Alumni_association/newsletter.htm

Thanks,
 Andrea Molle, Associate Editor



© <http://blog.typograffit.com/2011/03/japan-tsunami-and-earthquake-relief-posters-and-flyers/>



Looking for Contributions

Your Input is Important!
Please continue sending your articles for our next issue. Thank you!

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