



JSPS San Francisco

2001 Addison Street, Suite 260 Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING EVENT 2011

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JUNBA 2011

Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) is pleased to inform you of the upcoming JUNBA2011 events.

JUNBA is a network among Japanese universities which have their offices in the Bay Area. The mission of JUNBA is to assist the enhancement of education and research activities and the creation of new businesses for Japanese universities by helping their internationalization movements, by helping the training of their students and personnel and by promoting a development of academia-industry relationships between Japan and the United States.

JUNBA 2011 (Invitation Only) -Nurturing Global Adaptability of University Students-

Date:

Friday, January 7th, 2011

Time:

9:00-16:20

Venue:

San Francisco Airport Marriott
1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010

Program:

< Morning Session >

US- JAPAN University Round Table Discussion

< Afternoon Session >

JUNBA 2011 Summit



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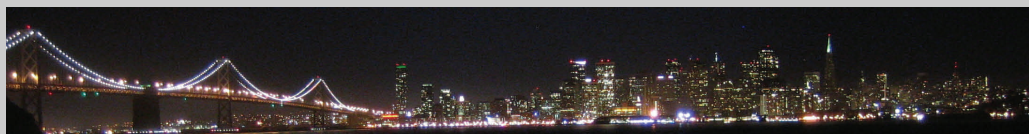
Questions or Feedback?

Email: Julie.Beaal@jpsusa-sf.org



For further information, please visit JUNBA's webpage. ↓

<http://www.junba.org/junba2011.html>



THE OFFICE STAFF SWITCH

JSPS SF Wishes a Heartfelt Farewell to Mr. Taniai



Mr. Taniai has stayed in California for one year as a UCOP visiting scholar. He is the 10th MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology –Japan) fellow for the exchange program between MEXT and UCOP. During his stay, he mainly did research on the financial aspects of the University of California system. In addition, he visited all ten UC campuses and conducted interviews on university operations. Moreover, he attended various meetings and seminars. As adviser to JSPS SF, his main role was to provide guidance and expertise on the many activities of JSPS SF.

Reflecting back on his first visit to California one year ago, he recalls he felt an uneasiness about life here because it was his first time living in a foreign country. However, he said he could enhance his stay thanks to the support from the staff at UCOP and the

staff of JSPS SF. Now, he wants to use his experiences here to enhance his work in the Japanese government after returning to Japan. From the JSPS SF staff, we appreciate your warm support on many points and we wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors!

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

Fukuoka Institute of Technology (FIT) to open new California Office

Message from FIT California Office Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of Fukuoka Institute of Technology, I am pleased to report an exciting opportunity. In April 2010, FIT launched its first foreign office, FIT California office in Alameda, California.

The core value of our institution is amplified in the phrase “For All the Students”. This is not merely a slogan, but the goal of FIT faculty, students and staff in the pursuit of knowledge.

The FIT California office is also for all the students. We are charged with the exploration of educational and cultural exchange opportunities with our partner, California State University East Bay, and other US partner universities.

I believe our official presence in the Bay Area will provide additional areas that FIT and other Japanese universities can mutually benefit through the JUNBA, Japanese University Network in Bay Area, and CSUEB collaboration.

As more faculty and students take advantage of opportunities for learning abroad, it creates an exciting opportunity for our institute and all of those involved.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the friends and supporters of FIT. Thank you for your interest and support of our work.

Best regards,

Tatsuro Yoneda
Fukuoka Institute of Technology
Director, FIT California Office



FAST Program

In 2009, FIT launched a new staff development program with the special cooperation of California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) for accelerating our reformation process. FAST stands for FIT Administration Staff Training Program. FAST program is fully supported by CSUEB President Mo Qayoumi and facilitated by FIT California Office. Under the concept of “put a theory into practice”, both institutes share knowledge, intelligence and expertise openly in a constructive learning environment. It is an extremely creative and challenging project to transform FIT administration and management.

In order to provide better service to our students, Mr. Unoki, Chairman of FIT, believes it would be key to enable staff members to build upon each other’s ideas. He also thinks that the university’s management team needs to encourage collaboration among members not for keeping knowledge, but for sharing it with others. FAST program was started because we strongly believe that when knowledge is shared by different educational institutions, it provides a platform for opportunity. As individual members learn, their knowledge adds to our global understanding of education. We expect our staff members to translate their learning into action rapidly for the benefit of many.

We have four FAST teams with different themes; Branding, Academic Plan, Student Services and External Relationship. We named it with the hope that their learning would be the BASE of our competitive institutional advantage in the future. All the FAST personnel would study and exchange information regarding enrollment management, teaching techniques and research, business process, and strategies for delivering high quality STEM education in the 21st century. Every team sends four members to California for approximately two months.



↑ Lecture by CSUEB Vice President Dr. Linda Dalton

Study Abroad Program

FIT provides mainly two different types of study-abroad programs in the U.S.

One is a three-week English program. The three-week English program is operated with the cooperation of CSUEB American Language Program (ALP). Students stay at CSUEB international house and join the English program, which includes some outside activities. Activities include visiting companies, universities, laboratories and museums in the San Francisco Bay Area, along with special lectures by entrepreneurs and sightseeing.

Another program is called FINE program, which provides students the opportunity to attend CSUEB University programs. FINE stands for FIT International Exchange. An individual FINE student can receive the benefits of free ALP and Open University course work for up to four consecutive quarters.



Latest News

FIT Chairman, Mr. Unoki, recently received the CSUEB Presidential Medallion in recognition of his vision and leadership in building a collaborative partnership in advancing the management, administration and teaching of higher education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in a global perspective. The Ceremonial Presentation and reception was held on September 1st, 2010 at CSUEB and attended by all CSUEB Deans and Administrators along with nearly 100 additional people.



↑ CSUEB Educational Foundation Chairman Richard Sherratt (left)
FIT Chairman Yoji Unoki (center)
CSUEB President Mo Qayoumi (right)



↑ Deputy Consul General Michio Harada (left)
FIT California Office Director Tatsuro Yoneda (right)

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS



The activities of Kagoshima University North American Center

JSPS staff attends the long distance live lecture at Kagoshima University North American Center

JSPS staff attended the long distance live lecture at Kagoshima University North American Center on July 12th, following the visit to the live D-learning session at Osaka University San Francisco Center on the previous day. Kagoshima University provided long distance lectures titled "Introduction of International Professionals" in the early half of this year. In this lecture series, they invited professionals in various fields, such as accountants, journalists, engineers, and so on. The lecturer on that day was an educator who manages a school and talked about the differences in education between Japan and the U.S. Through these lectures, students can gain knowledge and a broad understanding about working in the U.S.



Summer Programs at Kagoshima University North American Center

Kagoshima University held two programs in the Bay Area this summer. These programs included visits to universities and companies, along with many other activities. On September 22th, lectures and a networking event were held with students in University of California at Berkeley. During the lectures, the students frequently raised their hand to ask questions. They engaged in vibrant conversation with the UCB students in English at the networking event.

The 5th U.S.-Japan Future Forum at San Jose State University

The 5th U.S.-Japan Future Forum was held on September 24th for the purpose of the younger generation of Japan and America to discuss, consider and act towards a new and prosperous relationship between Japan and the U.S. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the dispatch of the first diplomatic mission between Japan and the U.S. Addresses, keynote lectures and panel discussion remarks were given by such speakers as the Deputy Consul General of Japan in San Francisco and professors from American and Japanese universities. Students also gave presentations on key global issues.



News from around the SF Office

2010 UC Berkeley Study Abroad Fair

On September 24th, which was a hot day for Berkeley, University of California at Berkeley held a Study Abroad Fair. Lots of UCB students who are interested in studying abroad attended this one day event.



Outside of the Fair →



September is the month which starts a new academic year in the U.S. UCB students also came back to UCB campus to begin another year of study.

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.

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

The activities of Kyushu University California Office

2010 Silicon Valley English Program (SVEP) Has Been Completed by Kyushu University California Office

One of the main goals of Kyushu University California Office (CA Office) is to expose students to different ideas and cultures through various programs and to bring as many students as possible to Silicon Valley or, otherwise, to the USA. In order to achieve such an objective of internationalization, this summer, CA Office hosted an English training program, called Silicon Valley English Program (SVEP). This is the fourth SVEP we have conducted.



Field trip at Intel

In late August, 42 Kyushu University (KU) students came to Silicon Valley to study English at "Studies in American Language (SAL)" in San José State University (SJSU). SJSU has an exchange agreement with KU and this program is customized for KU. Students were deeply immersed in English for four weeks in both their classes and home stays.



An English Class at SAL



Field trip at Stanford University

In addition to the classes, we took them out for field trips to neighboring universities and companies in Silicon Valley. We visited Stanford University, Cisco Systems Inc. and Intuitive Surgical Inc. which developed a robotic-assisted surgery called DaVinci. Students found the visits interesting and exciting because they learned the work styles and innovative technologies of the companies.

They were also involved in other activities of SAL, such as the conversation club, pizza party and special lectures. Every day after their classes, they attended conversation club, tutored by SJSU graduate students, so that they could practice informal conversation in a relaxed setting. This helped students increase their ability to communicate effectively with native speakers. Over 100 students gathered for the pizza party with SJSU students, and some KU students made good friends through it.

In their home stays, although some students felt bewildered with cultural differences at first, they eventually enjoyed the openness and the cross-cultural and international communication styles. The home stay exposed students to a rich variety of cultural learning opportunities, such as family activities, holiday celebrations, cooking, sporting events, etc. Experiencing such encounters, students realized how important it is to have their own opinions and a broad perspective, and re-realized the importance of family and the good aspects of Japan.

At the end of this program, all students made a final presentation on a theme of their choice. They surprised us with the ways of their presentations, which were all intriguing in topic and splendid in attitude and clearness. Their presentations far exceeded our expectations, and made us realize how important these 4 weeks were for them.

In conclusion, we found students learned something important in addition to English skills. We are hoping that they continue to practice English and to nurture what they learned during their stays in SVEP.



Pizza party

BAY AREA & JAPAN RELATED NEWS

An Aristotelian Study: The origin and sense of the word 'Essence'

Hokkaido University Philosophy Department Professor Kei Chiba



HOKKAIDO
UNIVERSITY

In any ordinary and scientific activity, the word 'essence' is employed to express something determining the thing itself. Although everyone knows this to be an important notion, the study of its origin has been in darkness for centuries in the history of philosophy. The term 'essence' is coined as a peculiar locution in Greek '*to ti ên einai* (the what it was to be)' by Aristotle. Aristotelian scholarship has been puzzled by this phrase. M.Loux says that 'There is much discussion in the literature on the origins of the expression and its precise sense...But any account of the expression is conjectural'. I have recently proposed a non-conjectural interpretation in 'Aristotle on Essence and Defining-phrase in his Dialectic' in *Definition in Greek Philosophy* ed. D.Charles (OUP 2010) as a fruit of a joint project with Professor David Charles (Oxford) sponsored by JSPS and the British Academy(2005-2007). Our project was entitled 'Essence and Explanation: Aristotle and Modern Scientific Essentialism'.

The paper was prompted by a hunch I had of this phrase one autumn day about thirteen years ago. I randomly opened the Greek text. Immediately the phrase '*to ti ên einai*' caught my eye. Simultaneously an inspiration came to my mind that this was the reformulation of Socratic 'what is it? *ti esti*;' question. While Socrates did not have anything apart from the expression 'what is F?', he did distinguish between questions which ask for examples and those which ask for the thing itself. When Socrates asks 'what is courage?' and is not satisfied with the answer given, e.g., 'not to retreat from the front at the battle field' which is no more than an example, he asks again about courage itself. Aristotle reformulated Socratic second attempt in the following interrogative 'what was it then for F to be F?' So understood, this phrase is used to indicate the fact that Socrates, well aware that something has been overlooked in the responses so far given, has throughout been searching for the thing itself.

Since then, the study of the *Topics* really became the experience which endorsed my hunch one after another. A passage gave me the solid evidence for this interpretation. Aristotle says that 'Socratic dialectic is not strong enough to enable people without asking 'what is F' question to consider about contraries'. In Socrates' view, one cannot know which of the contrary properties belongs to the relevant thing F, without knowing what F is. One cannot know whether virtue can be taught or not without knowing what virtue is. This passage confirms that Aristotle devises the theory of predicables, which offers four possible exhaustive and mutually exclusive answers (defining-phrase signifying essence, genus, property and accident) in advance as the device dispensing with asking a Socratic 'what is F?' question. Thus Aristotle avoided the difficulties which beset Socratic enquiry.

In reflecting those days, I noticed a characteristic of Japanese language. In Japanese too, when we have noticed something previously overlooked, we employ the imperfect verb. The fact that this locution is common in Japanese helped my hunch. I thought for a long time that being Japanese is simply a handicap for being a scholar of Ancient Greek Philosophy. This event may, however, show that sometimes a handicap becomes an advantage.

USJI WEEK was held from September 7-10

USJI is a NPO co-established by five Japanese universities (Kyoto University, Keio University, The University of Tokyo, Ritsumeikan University, Waseda University) in April, 2009. This organization's objectives are conducting realistic policy analysis based on scholarly research, identifying over-the-horizon issues for the US-Japan relationship and developing human resources to work on those issues, as well as creating a community in which proposals concerning US-Japan-relates issues are made. Following events held in September, 2009 and February, 2010, USJI held their fifth big event "USJI WEEK" from September 7-10. This 4-day event included four seminars, an Open House and a USJI Networking Social. There were a lot of participants and vibrant Q&A sessions.

For further information about USJI WEEK, please see the USJI's webpage ↓ ↓

<http://www.us-jpri.org/en/reports0907.html>



Greetings from Berkeley —We got a short hot week—

When you imagine the west coast, you may think of blue skies, blue seas, brilliant sunshine, hot and dry weather... But, after arriving here in April, we didn't have any summery days until the end of September. People in San Francisco enjoyed these few hot days which hit 100° in their own way, such as boating and cycling.



Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.



Dr. Sotaro SHIBAYAMA

1998: B.S., Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the University of Tokyo

2000: M.S., Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the University of Tokyo

2007: Visiting scholar, Centre for Health Management, Imperial College of London

2008: Ph.D., Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the University of Tokyo (JSPS Research Fellow DC2)

2009-: Visiting scholar, School of Public Policy, Georgia Institute of Technology (JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow for Research Abroad)

Sotaro SHIBAYAMA studied natural science before, so he has been interested in *research activity* in industry and academia as a subject of his research. Later, he learned economics and statistics, based on which he has studied management and policy issues in corporate and university research. His recent subjects, focusing more on academia, include the impact of commercialism on university research, the inequality of research-grant distribution, and laboratory management in basic biology. He has been a JSPS Postdoctoral fellow for Research Abroad at Georgia Institute of Technology since 2009.

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

My research subject is the science and technology (S&T) policy, for which Georgia Institute of Technology is renowned. Fortunately, one of my previous supervisors has been collaborating with a professor here and introduced me to him.

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

I feel that the communication between researchers is more active in the U.S. than in Japan. Departmental meetings are frequently held, where professors and Ph.D. students from different laboratories can exchange ideas. In addition, there are frequent small conferences, where a small number of researchers in a focused area gather together. Such a conference is a good starting point for publication, since we can get opinions from leading researchers in a specific field (who tend to become a reviewer of submitted papers).

Although this may sound trivial, I feel that the support for research staff is generous (at least in my school). Miscellaneous businesses (e.g., library support, etc.) are well-centralized so that researchers can concentrate on research. Nevertheless, it was disappointing that the financial issues seem as messy as in Japan.

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

I am glad to have good access to leading researchers in my department and conferences nearby. This makes it easier

to understand research trends and obtain feedback on my research swiftly. I believe that this network will also be helpful in my future career. More in general, I think staying in a foreign country (it doesn't have to be the U.S., though) and meeting people of different nationalities has broadened my horizons.

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

Since my research interest is in S&T policy, I would like to visit more countries to see their policies.

Nowadays, the level of science in Japan has improved, so it may not seem critically important to study abroad. Besides, young researchers may feel pressured and consider working in foreign countries as inefficient. But, in the very long term, I believe it is worthwhile to place oneself in a very different circumstance and think over one's research. Studying abroad may be one way to do that.

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@jpsusa-sf.org.

Check out our website!
www.jpsusa-sf.org

Interview with JSPS Fellow in the U.S.



Ayumi KISHIOKA

2006: B.S., Faculty of Science, Japan Women's University

2008: M.S., Division of Medical Science, Graduate School of Medicine, the University of Tokyo

2008-present: Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Molecular Neurobiology, Graduate School of Medicine, the University of Tokyo

2009-present: Department of Brain and Cognitive Science, MIT

2009-2012: JSPS Research Fellow (DC1)

2010-2011: the Excellent Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program of JSPS

Ayumi KISHIOKA has been studying how memories of personal experience are formed and used. To address more challenging questions, she moved from Tokyo Univ. to MIT where she employs a combination of molecular genetic, electrophysiological, pharmacological, behavioral and computational approaches. In particular, she uses a technique that allows her to simultaneously record the activity of ensembles of hundreds of single neurons in freely behaving animals.

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

There are some leading laboratories in the U.S. and Northern Europe I was interested in to achieve my challenging goals. I chose the U.S. from other places because I accepted an offer from Dr. Susumu Tonegawa to work at MIT. MIT is a world-class research university in which scientists from diverse disciplines use emerging and innovative technologies to pursue scientific problems. I have the opportunity to speak with people who are interested in the same research field from different countries and diverse backgrounds.

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

Most researchers in my lab do not stay long at the lab and leave by early evening. Some of them take a long vacation for about one or two months. That is the American standard here. I have never

seen as many U.S. students and researchers study and work as hard as those at Tokyo Univ. I was surprised and was left wondering where their passion for science and research was. They appear to like playing around.

We have many things to learn from both countries. Japanese people are not good at having a big vision or a big-picture view. However, people working at MIT helped me realize how technologies in Japan are outstanding and refined in detail, which is difficult to emulate in other countries. People in the U.S. actually envy and respect those Japanese techniques in science. This is interesting, because it is almost the opposite of people's views in Japan. Many Japanese still believe the U.S. is ahead of other countries in science. I am sure people here are good at coming up with simple but big concepts. The U.S. is a nation of immigrants, and it is a free country. However, it does not necessarily mean they are talented in thinking in details and creating refined results. I am eager to take full advantage of the talents seen in both countries.

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

I always feel that I have complete intellectual freedom, even as a graduate student. Discussions in classes with MIT professors who are often cited in top journals have helped me create sophisticated ideas and look at problems from different angles. They are available to speak with students, even outside of the classroom. On the other hand, people who do not have

an innovative idea or show an outstanding performance can be eliminated by natural selection. Success depends on merit. I like this thrilling environment.

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

My goal is to understand how the dynamics of neurons are communicating with each other when we learn and use memories. Optogenetic approaches which have been developed recently take light-activated molecular switches from nature and add them to neurons to decipher the language of the brain. These powerful tools promise to provide deep insights into how the brain works and will find clinical use in human.

To be successful in research, you need to have a desire to take on challenges and progress, and a willingness to act on your own volition. Studying abroad might give you an opportunity to broaden your vision and skills, but it is not necessarily the best or only way to improve yourself. There are some great laboratories also in Japan which stay ahead of other countries in science, such as regenerative medicine and artificial intelligence to name a few. They are exceptional and definitely leading the world in their fields. It seems to be very difficult for other countries to catch up with the advanced knowledge and technologies in Japan. I came to this realization after interacting with people at MIT and in various parts of the U.S. I think you have a lot of options to find a better environment to pursue your interests.