



## JSPS US Fellows Alumni Association

5<sup>th</sup> Issue Jan, 2008 Editor: Blanca Chattin-Kacouris DDS, PhD. Associate Editor: Yoke Khin Yap, PhD.

### “Globalization and Social Changes” Conference

On November 15 and 16, the US-JSPS Fellows Alumni Association held its first symposium, “Globalization and Social Changes” at American University. The conference was a major success with JSPS fellows coming from around the country and several speakers coming from various parts of Japan and England.

Quansheng Zhao (American University) chaired the panel dealing with Japanese foreign policy. Several presenters weighed in on Japan’s changing role in the global era. The discussion was vibrant, dealing with current topics such as the impact of Koizumi Reform and provocative theoretical constructs such as the process of Global Constitutionalism in Japan. Security also was a major focus in this discussion as we considered Japan’s unique Constitution and the role it plays in maintaining peace. Other panels, chaired by Dajin Peng (University of Southern Florida) and Louis Esparza (Stony Brook University) discussed Economic and Social changes happening both within Japan and between Japan and China. Business and migration networks played a prominent role in the discussion between Japan and China, pointing to the many linkages between the two



*Welcome remarks from Dean Louis Goodman, School of International Services, American University.*



*Organizers and guest speakers*

countries. The human rights, peace, feminist, and minority rights movements within Japan also were lively discussed and received many comments.

The conference boasted two prominent keynote speakers. Kent Calder (Johns Hopkins University - SAIS) discussed his article in *Foreign Policy* and Japan's place within the Asian community. Masafumi Ishii (Minister, Japanese Embassy) enlightened Fellows about current US-Japan relations, including high-level meetings that were occurring between the two countries at the time of the conference.

The conference was a major success and could not have happened without support from JSPS Washington Office and American University. Special thanks are given to the Alumni Executive Committee, Prof. Masaike, and Prof. Zhao in this regard. We are looking forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> US-JSPS Conference and building upon our continuing success as a young organization.



The scholarship at this JSPS US Alumni Symposium has been recognized by the international human rights journal, *Societies without Borders*, published by Brill Academic Press (<http://www.brill.nl/swb>). Co-Guest Editor, Louis Edgar Esparza (Stony Brook University) will be publishing a symposium on “Human Rights & Japan” including his article “Identity Formation in the World Trade Organization: Movements, Farm Subsidies, & Japan” as well as “Active Commitment by Obligation? Japanese Global Peace Demonstrators in Comparative Perspective” by Daishiro Nomiya (Sophia University) and “Japan's contribution to Global Constitutionalism” by Akihiko Kimijima (Ritsumeikan University). The articles will appear in the Spring 2009 issue of the journal. JSPS Scholars have made a strong showing at the symposium. Congratulations!



*(Top left) Prof. Masaïke, Prof Zhao, Mr. Kato, Sarkar and Biplab. (Top right) Arup, Daniel, Ying, Shannon, Blanca and Chuma. (Bottom left) Khabir, Anowarul and Ranil. (Bottom right) Eesin, Yilam, Blanca and Sheng-xue.*

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### **JSPS Alumni Meeting-Nov 17, 2007: Fellowship Breakfast**

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On the morning of Saturday, November 17, approximately thirty fellows gathered at the Holiday Inn Chevy Chase in Maryland to share breakfast and attend the alumni meeting. Most fellows were attending an alumni event for the first time and showed a lot of enthusiasm. The meeting started with a meishi exchange and fellows who came from all over the U.S. got to know each other.

Prof. Akira Masaïke, Director of JSPS Washington office, introduced his staff and special guest, Mr. Hisashi Kato, Head of Overseas Fellowship Division, International Program Department at JSPS Tokyo. Mr. Kato expressed warm words to all the fellows for the interest they shared with him on Alumni affairs during the scientific symposium and at the reception the previous day.

Later, the fellows were called by geographical regions and had the opportunity to introduce themselves indicating their current fields of research and host institutions. The activity units of the Alumni Association were of special interest to the attendees. Scientific Groups, Newsletter and Yahoo net group were introduced and handouts were given with the appropriate

information. The fellows then divided into Scientific Groups and shared their thoughts for developing activities and future scientific symposia in their fields.

The meeting finished with a group photo and several informal shots that are included in this issue. Thanks to all of the fellows for a great time!



*(Top) The group photo. (Middle left) Yilam, Jan, Dawn, Blanca, Yuka and Lila. (Middle right) Dajin, Dawn, Louis, Blanca and Michael. (Bottom left) Jimmy, Daniel and Biplab. (Bottom right) Lila and Hiroshi.*

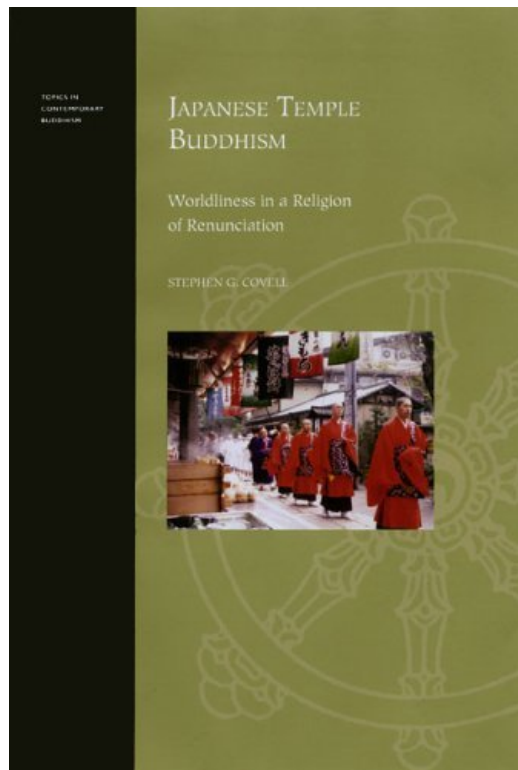
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## Beyond the JSPS: An update on one scholar's activities back home

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Dr. Stephen Covell studied at the University of Tokyo under Prof. Shimazono Susumu from 2001 to 2003 on the JSPS through the SSRC. His research focused on morals and religious education in contemporary Japan. While there he conducted interviews at junior and senior high schools, met with priests from a variety of Buddhist denominations, members of Christian groups and new religious movements.

After returning from Japan in 2003 Dr. Covell took up a position as assistant professor of Comparative Religion at Western Michigan University. His book (shown left), *Japanese Temple Buddhism*, came out in 2005 to critical acclaim and is now in paperback from University of Hawaii Press. The book combines historical analysis with fieldwork to paint a picture of Buddhist institutions in contemporary Japan—how do they make ends meet, who joins the priesthood, how is clerical marriage viewed, how do laws and tax codes affect temple life (see <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/> for a recent and lengthy review).



Also in 2005 he founded a unique study abroad seminar on Japanese religions (see <http://homepages.wmich.edu/~scovell>). The study abroad program was a great success and was covered in the local newspaper. The program repeated in 2006 and will repeat again in 2008. While the program has many interesting parts to it, including staying at the famous Zojoji temple in the heart of Tokyo right next to the Tokyo Tower, the students seem to love the two nights spent in Nikko the best. There, for one full day, they stay at a Shingon Buddhist training temple and learn a variety of Buddhist practices, chop wood for a fire ceremony, and, at 5:00 am, climb to the mountain top to stand under a pounding waterfall.

In 2006 Dr. Covell founded the Michitoshi Soga Japan Center at WMU (see [www.wmich.edu/sogajapancenter](http://www.wmich.edu/sogajapancenter)) and currently serves as its director. The Center serves as a nexus for all things related to Japan on campus. It plays a central role in community outreach, recruitment, and program development for students. In the past 4 years WMU has greatly expanded the number of Japanologists on campus. There are now six tenured or tenure track faculty working on Japan (modern Japanese literature, premodern Japanese literature, religion, anthropology, history and political science) and a large number of faculty in other fields ranging from nursing to nuclear physics that work with Japanese researchers and travel to Japan frequently.

In 2007, Dr. Covell was invited to meet with Prime Minister Abe at a reception for JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme. See [http://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/jet/index.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/jet/index.html)) Programme Alumni held at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Washington, D.C. This year, Dr. Covell was awarded early tenure, promotion to Associate Professor, and a named professorship (he is now the Mary Meader Professor of Comparative Religion). Dr. Covell credits his time on the JSPS fellowship for much of his recent success. The time on the fellowship allowed him to gather significant materials, make extensive contacts, and provided him the time he needed to write.



*Stephen and the former Prime Minister Abe.*

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### **Dr. Yoke Khin Yap Organized the Biggest Symposium in 2007 MRS Fall Meetings**

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Dr. Yoke Khin Yap (JSPS Fellow 2000/2002) from Michigan Tech University was the lead organizer of an international nanotube symposium in the 2007 Materials Research Society (MRS) Fall Meetings. This five-day symposium (Symposium II: Nanotubes and Related Nanostructures) consists of more than 300 presentations including 27 invited lectures. The overall aim of Symposium II was to provide an interdisciplinary forum to discuss about Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Engineering aspects of nanotubes and related nanostructures.



This was the biggest symposium in the [2007 Materials Research Society \(MRS\) Fall Meeting](#) with a total of 42 symposia and ~4500 presentations. Some presentations in Symposium II draw of an overflow audience, demonstrating strong interest from the materials research community in general. The symposium was co-organized with Dr. Kenji Hata from Advanced Industry Science and Technology (Japan), Dr Annick Loiseau from Laboratoire d'Etude des Microstructures (LEM, CNRS, France), and Dr. Ming Zheng from DuPont Central Research and Development (U.S.A.). Technical papers presented in the symposium will also be considered for publication in a MRS proceeding (Editor: Dr. Yoke Khin Yap). All MRS members will have free online access to this proceeding in 2008.

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## An update from Guven Witteveen

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Guven Witteveen, [wittevee@umich.edu](mailto:wittevee@umich.edu)  
Outreach Educator, U-Michigan Center for Japanese Studies  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

From 1999-2001, I worked with the National Museum of Ethnology near Osaka as they developed a portable electronic guide in English to the permanent exhibition halls. In addition to the translation work with texts and context I also followed up on my 1997 dissertation fieldwork in Fukui-ken. As a result of the JSPS experience I was able to make many valuable friendships, take part in a number of conferences, and begin to edit my dissertation into a book: *The Renaissance of Takefu* (Routledge 2004). Most of my writings and interests are online

at [www.msu.edu/~wittevee/publications](http://www.msu.edu/~wittevee/publications).

Although there are few social scientists in the JSPS program, I am convinced that analysis, observation and comparative study is just as important as breakthroughs in technical and natural science fields. After the fellowship period, it wasn't until summer 2004 that I returned to rural west Japan. This time I taught the Society and Culture course in the intensive language program at Kanazawa Institute of Technology each summer. I gathered readings that hold insight into the laboratory, corporate and scientific culture of Japanese organizations: [www.umich.edu/~wittevee/japan/bgr04eng&sci.xls](http://www.umich.edu/~wittevee/japan/bgr04eng&sci.xls)

What most interests me these days about Japan is educating the general public, but school children especially, about the language and life of people in Japan. I worked a couple of years at the Asian Studies Center of Michigan State University before taking the position at the University of Michigan's Center for Japanese Studies. I've become aware of the need to connect Japanese study to the rest of East Asia. So I am seeking opportunities to learn more about Korea and China now. A glimpse of my experiences on the Korea Society 2005 study tours is online at [www.umich.edu/~wittevee/korea/andjapan](http://www.umich.edu/~wittevee/korea/andjapan). Building bridges between the people in Japan and the USA has become my life's work. I look to the JSPS alumni in order to strengthen these connections further. I welcome your anecdotes, advice to newcomers to JSPS and your observations!



*Guven Witteveen (Center, back row) and his colleagues at the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of Michigan.*

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## Sabbatical in Tasmania

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### *Preparations*

I began my academic career just over twelve years ago, immediately after completing my JSPS postdoctoral fellowship at Himeji Institute of Technology. In that time I have taught and conducted research at two different institutions, and even served for a year as Department Chair. My eligibility for sabbatical at my current institution, the University of Montana, certainly seemed a very long time in coming, and I definitely felt the urge to get away!

A goal for sabbatical was to continue and invigorate my research in analytical chemistry, specifically separation science. This research has progressed significantly since my JSPS postdoctoral days, but remains in the same general field. A second goal was to take advantage of another opportunity to live and work in another part of the world. Thus, I found the international connections and reputation that I developed during my JSPS postdoctoral fellowship extremely helpful in finding an institution willing to host my visit.

The Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS), under the direction of Professor Paul Haddad, made a very generous offer to provide living accommodation for my family and I as well as laboratory and office space for me to work in. ACROSS is located in the School of Chemistry at The University of Tasmania in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. ACROSS is one of the preeminent research centers in the field of separation science in the world, and certainly fit with my goals of developing my research, experiencing another country and culture, and getting away from the University of Montana.

My wife, Janet, and I prepared for the trip to Australia with the same level of enthusiasm and anticipation, but a bit less of the apprehension that we felt when preparing to go on our previous overseas trips. Of course, the preparations and trip were to be a bit more difficult (and in some ways more rewarding) because we now have school-age children. Passports, visas, new bank accounts, tickets, accommodations, etc., all needed to be arranged, but so did schools and activities for the children. Most of our preparations, however, were made easier by our previous experience living overseas. The amazing improvements in electronic communication and ecommerce over the past thirteen years eased the transition as well.

### *Experiences*

We have now been in Australia for nearly four months. Hobart is a small city located on the estuary of the Derwent River in southern Tasmania. The river estuary is surrounded by hills and small mountains, with the prominent and rocky Mt Wellington as the backdrop to the city. The Derwent is host to many private sailboats and there are regular regattas three or four days a week. Large cruise ships have also begun to arrive every few days. In and around Hobart the hills have been developed to a fairly high density, but there are many National Parks and a great deal of rural farmland very close to Hobart. There are also a lot of beautiful and surprisingly unoccupied beaches in the area, although the water remains chilly. We have found Tasmanians to be very relaxed and easy going, and coming from Montana we certainly appreciate that. Of course the differences in accent and language present an insignificant barrier compared to Japanese. Our children have found the schools to be accommodating, and have made good friends with many of their fellow students. We've also found quality music and gymnastics

programs for them continue their involvement in these activities while here. We have even become re-accustomed to driving on the left hand side of the road.

As is the case with any change in workplace (especially when combined with a move to a new country), productivity has been a bit slow at first. Still, I have been able to get back into the laboratory and do some experiments at the bench. I've also had plenty of opportunity to get caught up on my reading and writing. I haven't had this sort of freedom for years. I am involved in a research project that may have considerable practical and fundamental significance.

For those with an interest in chemistry, I am developing and characterizing latex nanoparticles to be used as chromatographic stationary phases. Small amphiphilic block co-polymers are synthesized by RAFT polymerization methods. The nanoparticles are subsequently generated from equilibrium self-assembly of the co-polymers into miniemulsion droplets followed by emulsion polymerization. This approach leads to nanoparticles of uniform size and defined chemistry, which can then be fixed to a support and utilized as stationary phases for conventional chromatography, or can be suspended in solution and used as pseudostationary phases for electrokinetic chromatography.

Our travels outside of Hobart have included trips to local national parks, to Port Arthur (a major former penal colony), and even to a local sheep dairy where they produce excellent cheeses. We've seen wild kangaroos, wallabies, padmelons, and wombats. We've had kookaburras laughing at us (or at something) outside our residence, we've seen quite an array of brightly colored rosellas, and we've seen penguins coming ashore to spend the night in their nesting grounds. We've listened with amazement to the wild and foreign sounds of the eucalyptus forest ("the bush") coming to life in the morning. It really is a fascinating and interesting world, and it is great to have opportunities to explore and enjoy it.

Chris Palmer was a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow at Himeji Institute of Technology from 8/94-8/95. He has since taught chemistry for six years at New Mexico Tech, and for six years at the University of Montana in Missoula.



*Chris Palmer*

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### Dr. Yury Gogotsi Receives \$1 Million W.M. Keck Foundation Grant

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Dr. Yury Gogotsi (JSPS Fellow 1992/1993) led a team that received a \$1,000,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation for the project titled “Keck Institute of Attofluidic Nanotube-Based Probes”.

The W.M. Keck Foundation was established in 1954 in Los Angeles, CA, by William Myron Keck founder of The Superior Oil Company. The Foundation is one of the nation's largest philanthropic organizations, supporting pioneering discoveries in science, engineering and medical research, and with assets of more than \$1 billion. Grant programs supported by the Foundation are invested in people and programs that are making a difference in the quality of life, now and for the future.



The goal of the Keck Institute of Attofluidic Nanotube-Based Probes is to design and build nanotube-tipped probes: tiny and versatile tools that will create opportunities in areas such as minimally invasive intra-cellular probing and drug delivery, single-cell surgery, molecular scale manufacturing, and environmental sensing. These tools may lead to breakthroughs in our ability to directly detect and treat disease, such as cancer, at the cellular level; and to dramatically improve the ability to detect toxins in air and water at the single molecule level, identifying possible biological attack and other threats. “We were among the first in the world to study fundamentals of fluid behavior in individual nanotubes,” according to Gogotsi, Principal Investigator for the project. Members of the research team have already produced nanotube-tipped capillaries with the ability to transfer fluid and to perform cell injections. They have also created carbon nanotubes that incorporate magnetic and gold nanoparticles. “The challenge that we now face is to fine tune the design and function of nanotube-tipped probes and demonstrate their usefulness for cell interrogation, sensing and other applications,” Gogotsi said.

In addition, Yury Gogotsi received Roland B. Snow Award from the American Ceramic society for his work on Mesoporous Carbide Derived Carbon from Ti<sub>2</sub>AlC.

<http://www.materials.drexel.edu/News/Item/?i=2576>

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### A Postdoc Position in Nanotechnology

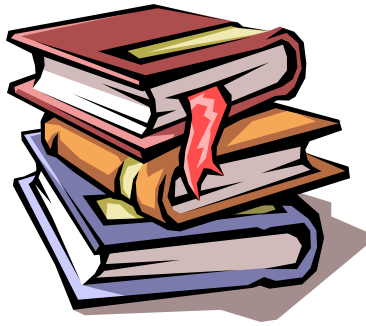
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We are seeking one post-doctoral associate to work on development of carbon nanotube based nanofluidic systems and components with applications to cellular and intracellular probing, drug delivery and drug discovery. An ideal candidate is expected to have a primary background in engineering, chemistry or physics with experience in fluid behavior at the nanoscale. Previous experience with carbon nanotubes/nanowires (especially manipulation of single tubes or sensor applications), optical characterization methods (especially Raman/SERS), TEM/SEM and/or knowledge of cellular biology will be helpful. This position is supported by a grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation. Qualified candidates should contact:

Prof. Yury Gogotsi at Drexel University, E-mail: [yg36@drexel.edu](mailto:yg36@drexel.edu)

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*Looking for Contributions*  
*Please continue sending your articles/updates for our upcoming issues*  
*Thank you*



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