

## **ATJ JSP SIG Newsletter: Issue no. 7, April 30, 2010**

The ATJ JSP SIG Newsletter tri-annually highlights upcoming events and opportunities of interest. Notices appear under five headings:

- 1. JSP SIG Announcements**
- 2. Conferences and Workshops**
- 3. Grants and Awards Opportunities**
- 4. Other information**
- 5. Member in the Spotlight**

If you have notices in these categories that you would like posted here, please send them to Tomoko Takami at [ttakami@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:ttakami@sas.upenn.edu). The next newsletter is planned to be issued August 31, 2010. Information given by August 21st will appear in the next issue.

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### **(1) JSP SIG Announcements**

The 2010 ATJ Seminar took place on March 25, 2010, in Philadelphia. We had the second SIG panel at the Seminar. I would like to thank the presenters and those who attended the panel. Ms. Akiko Murata and Ms. Yuko Sugaya, traveling all the way from Japan, presented findings of their research with their colleagues from the University of Tokyo on spoken language corpus in the graduate seminar in Engineering. Dr. Toshiko Kishimoto presented details of her Business Japanese class called Critical Inquiry. My presentation, I hope, provided ways of bridging National Standards and business Japanese instruction. Dr. Yuki Matsuda, a discussant of the JSP SIG panel, gave critical insights on each presentation and directions on where we can go further in terms of research and pedagogical implications.

In conjunction with the ATJ conference, the Symposium on Teaching Japanese for Professional Purposes was held at the University of Pennsylvania on the following day. Approximately 50 people attended and enjoyed all the presentations given by JSP-SIG members: Dr. Jim Davis, Dr. Toshiko Kishimoto, Ms. Junko Kondo, Dr. Yuki Matsuda, Dr. Motoko Tabuse, Dr. Michio Tsutsui, Dr. Eiko Ushida. I am thankful to all the presenters for their wonderful talks.

There is exciting news! Please note that a new JOINT online class on teaching Japanese for Professional Purposes will start next winter. Please see (4) Other information section for more details.

The "Member in the Spotlight" section of this issue features Dr. Toshiko Kishimoto. She has been teaching Business Japanese for a long time with energy and passion. Please look at the amazing picture of hers taken when she was meeting with the Emperor and Empress!

### **JSP-SIG Activity Report in the ATJ newsletter**

JSP-SIG Report will appear in the next ATJ newsletter; basically the information presented will not be new for JSP-SIG members, but you can look back on what we have done. I hope



**August 13-15, 2010 Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education (CAJLE)  
Annual Conference**

[http://www.cajle.info/annual\\_conference](http://www.cajle.info/annual_conference)

The theme for this year's conference is "Emerging Possibilities for Japanese Language Education: Integrating Language, Content and Culture." We aim at gathering together researchers from all related academic fields including Japanese linguistics, pedagogy, language education, and Japanese studies as well as Japanese language teachers from all levels of institutions to explore this theme from a variety of perspectives. Through the sharing of their theories, practices and challenges, we hope to gain insights that will be useful for designing more innovative curricula and assessment methods, as well as for developing more effective teaching materials.

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**(4) Other information**

The Alliance of Associations of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ) will offer a Japanese On-line Instruction Network for Teachers (JOINT) course on Japanese for Professional Purposes in early 2011. The JOINT facilitators will be Motoko Tabuse (Eastern Michigan University) and Yuki Matsuda (University of Memphis). The JPP course will be offered from January 24 (Monday) to March 06 (Sunday), 2011. Those who are interested in receiving graduate credits may do so through the University of Colorado, Boulder, with a fee. More detailed information will be distributed later.

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**(5) Member in the Spotlight: Dr. Toshiko Kishimoto**

1989 was a remarkable year nationally and internationally. In Japan, Hirohito passed away, and a new era, Heisei, started. The Japanese "bubble" economy reached its peak, and the Japanese stock market hit record highs. The Nikkei average was 38,950 yen. (It is approximately 11,000 yen now.) In China the Tiananmen Square protests occurred, and in Europe the Berlin wall came down. And the Cold War was over. At Clemson, South Carolina, Toshiko Kishimoto was appointed as assistant professor of Japanese after a two-semester pilot program of Japanese instruction. Since then Toshiko has worked hard to build both the Japanese Language & International Trade major and the Japanese Major at Clemson University. There are two tenured faculty members, one lecturer, and student enrollment for one academic year is approximately 250.



Toshiko teaches mainly upper level Japanese and Business Japanese, although she loves to teach beginning-level students. Recently she added a Japanese literature course for advanced students. In addition to Kawabata and Soseki, it has been a fun challenge to read and discuss the writings of Tanizaki and Haruki Murakami with students. Business Japanese is especially fun for Toshiko. She loves to teach business topics, and her own undergraduate Law degree and her experience as an interpreter for a cooperate board meeting add a level of richness to her Business Japanese classes. Most of her recently published works are in the area of Heritage Japanese Language and Japanese Pedagogy. She has also begun to research business communication between China, US and Japan.

Also in 1989 the Japanese Saturday School was established in Greenville, SC. Toshiko was appointed as headmaster and served for 14 years. The school grew from 26 students to 135 in 14 years. Because of this contribution she was invited to Charleston in 1994 to meet with the Emperor and Empress together with her husband Yuji, a founder of the Japan-America Association of South Carolina.

Toshiko's husband, Yuji Kishimoto, is a professor of Architecture at Clemson University. He is an architect, an accomplished classical guitarist, and a marathon runner. Their daughter Kyo and her husband David are also architects and marathon runners. Although Toshiko is the minority in her family, she always go to the races and cheers with her two granddaughters.

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