

## **ATJ JSP SIG Newsletter: Issue no. 2, August 31, 2008**

The ATJ JSP SIG Newsletter quarterly notifies 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 November, 2008. Information given by the end of October will appear in the next issue.

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### **JSP SIG Announcements**

The 2009 ATJ Seminar will take place on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Chicago. The Call for Papers will be posted during the fall, I believe. I would like to encourage JSP SIG members to send a proposal on the topics relating to JSP. In addition, JSP SIG will hold its business meeting during the ATJ seminar. I hope to see many members in Chicago!

The JSP SIG member directory was distributed to the members by email early August. I would like to thank those who contacted me for corrections. The revised version was sent to the members in the end of August. Let me know if you did not receive it. If you have not done so, please check your information at your earliest convenience. If there are any mistakes, changes or updates, please contact me.

I finally set up the members' list serve, which makes it much easier for me to send JSP SIG mails to all of the members (34 members right now). This set-up allows me to send emails to the members, but does not allow other people to do so (so that the group emails won't be out of control). If you want to send an email to the group, would you please email me and I will email to the group immediately.

From this issue, the newsletter includes "Member in the Spotlight," which features a member of our SIG so we can get to know other members. The first member in the spotlight is Dr. Lindsay Amthor Yotsukura. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

Tomoko Takami, JSP SIG coordinator

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## Conferences and Workshops

### **September 2008 and January 2009    *Online Course: Content-Based Instruction for Advanced Japanese, The Alliance of Associations of Teachers of Japanese***

<http://www.aatj.org/joint/CBICourse.html>

The Alliance of Associations of Teachers of Japanese will offer the first course in its JOINT online professional development program in September 2008 and again in January 2009. This pilot course, entitled "Content-Based Instruction for Advanced Japanese: Course Development and Language Training," is open to both native and non-native-speaking teachers of Japanese. During the one-month course participants will learn about and create content-based instruction (CBI) lessons that develop both advanced reading skills and cultural knowledge of students. The course will enhance both the language proficiency and the pedagogy repertoire of the participating teachers.

**Description:** The course will consist of four parts: (1) principles of CBI, (2) curriculum development in CBI, (3) instructional strategies in CBI, and (4) assessment. The course will utilize existing materials as examples, but hands-on experience will be emphasized, and course participants will be required to create their own materials to be used in their classes. Participants will work on assigned readings and lectures independently and also will engage in collaborative learning, working in pairs or groups that include both native and non-native-speaking teachers. Assignments and evaluations will be individualized to accommodate the differing needs of the participants. Participants will be asked for permission to share the materials they create (via the Alliance website) with the broader Japanese language education community after the end of the course.

**Faculty:** Dr. Eiko Ushida, University of California, San Diego; Dr. Masako O. Douglas, California State University, Long Beach.

**Schedule:** The first course begins Monday, September 8, and continues for four weeks, ending on Sunday, October 5. The second course will begin January 19 and end February 15, 2009. Participants will be expected to spend about five hours a week on coursework: one hour for reading, one hour listening to a lecture, one hour in discussion, and two hours on materials development.

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### **April 2–4, 2009    *2009 CIBER Business Language Conference: Navigating the World of Business Through Language and Culture***

<http://www.2009ciberblc.ku.edu>

Whether managers are finding markets in Asia, Africa, Europe, or Latin America, speaking the local languages and knowing the cultural terrain can make or break a deal. But how do we teach

these skills, especially to adult learners? Come to Kansas City to chart new directions in research and share ideas and best practices for teaching language and culture to business professionals.

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### Member in the Spotlight : Dr. Lindsay Amthor Yotsukura

Lindsay Amthor Yotsukura is an Associate Professor of Japanese language and linguistics and Director of the Japanese program at the University of Maryland, College Park. She also serves as coordinator for the undergraduate certificate program in East Asian Studies.

Yotsukura's research interests include cross-cultural pragmatics, discourse analysis (particularly of data drawn from institutional contexts), and teaching with technology. Recent publications include "Making inquiries: *Toiawase* strategies by Japanese L1 and L2 callers to Japanese educational institutions" in Mori and Ohta (2008) *Japanese Applied Linguistics*; "Learning words, learning worlds ('*Zenbu ikaga desu ka?*')" in *Japanese Language and Literature* (39:2); "Japanese business telephone conversations as Bakhtinian speech genre: Applications for second language acquisition" in Kelly et al. (2004), *Dialogue with Bakhtin on Second and Foreign Language Learning: New Perspectives*; and her book, *Negotiating Moves: Problem Presentation and Resolution in Japanese Business Discourse* (Elsevier, 2003).



At Maryland she has taught Japanese language courses at the elementary through advanced levels, including Business Japanese. She has also offered upper division classes in Japanese pragmatics; in one version of the course she focuses on speech acts and politeness in Japanese and English, and in another she explores representations of *uchi/soto* in Japanese language, culture, and society. She has also taught seminars in Japanese discourse and conversation analysis. She has been an active supporter of the use of technology in the Japanese program through CD-ROM course materials, PowerPoint, WebCT, Blackboard, and Wimba Voice Tools.

Yotsukura served on the Executive Board of the ATJ from 2004-2007 and also helped to plan the 2006 International Conference on Japanese Language Education (ICJLE) as a member of the Steering Committee. She is the recipient of fellowships and grants from the Japan/United States Educational Commission (Fulbright), the Japan Foundation, and UM's Center for Teaching Excellence, and was awarded a Lilly Fellowship in 2006-2007.

In addition to her professional life, Yotsukura enjoys spending time with her family. She and her husband Vince (who is Japanese-American but grew up speaking Japanese at home) have 8-year-old twins Ken (建)and Sumie (純恵). Her hobbies include cooking, traveling, and swimming.

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