

ATJ JSP SIG Newsletter: Issue no. 11, August 31, 2011

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

1. JSP SIG Announcements
2. Conferences and Workshops
3. Grants and Awards Opportunities
4. Other Information
5. JSP Class in the Spotlight
6. 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 The next newsletter is planned to be issued December 31, 2011. Information received by December 21 will appear in the next issue.

(1) JSP SIG Announcements

I hope you all had a productive yet relaxing summer. Believe it or not, the 2011-12 academic year has started. I will be teaching a 300-level Business Japanese course in the spring, which I am very excited about it. I hope to discuss this upper level Business Japanese class in the Newsletter sometime in the future. This issue of the SIG JSP Newsletter includes information about an upcoming 2012 CIBER Business Language Conference, an announcement of an AATJ online Business Japanese course, and other useful information for ATJ JSP SIG members. The *JSP Class in the Spotlight* is JSP SIG coordinator, Tomoko Takami-sensei's Business Japanese course. The *Member in the Spotlight* is Professor Shingo Satsutani of the College of DuPage.

Have a great beginning of the year!

Keiko Kuriyama, Editor, JSP-SIG Newsletter

Greeting from Philadelphia! We have recently experienced the earthquake and hurricane towards the end of August, both of which are very rare in the northeast US. The recent news from Japan includes devastating damage from a typhoon. Seeing these endless disasters caused by natural forces, on top of Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, I just cannot help hoping that everyone had a happy and safe summer.

Now that September is here. I hope everyone had an exciting kick-off to the new school year.

As you have seen in the JSP-SIG email, and can also see in this newsletter, there is an on-line JOINT course, "Designing a Business Japanese Curriculum." I hope many of us already have signed up. This is going to be a wonderful learning opportunity. I am grateful for Tabuse sensei and Saito-Abbott sensei and those who helped make this happen.

Tomoko Takami, JSP SIG coordinator

(2) Conferences and Workshops

The 2012 American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ) Annual Spring Conference will take place on **Thursday, March 15**, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (<http://www.aatj.org/atj/conference/index.html>)

Please note that we have set different guidelines for the SIG sponsored session proposal from last year: Under these conditions, I would like to encourage JSP-SIG members and other ATJ members to consider presenting in a JSP-SIG panel.

Both JSP SIG members and non-JSP SIG members can form a JSP panel. Please feel free to form a panel and submit it. Anyone can submit an individual paper related with JSP, as well.

If you want to form a JSP panel and would like help identifying other presenters to take part, and need help, please contact Tomoko Takami at ttakami@sas.upenn.edu. I would be happy to help coordinate a group.

□ JSP related proposals will be reviewed by the ATJ conference committee in the same manners as other proposals. This means that the SIG-sponsored panel does not receive priority over other regular proposals. It is possible that a SIG-sponsored panel and/or paper may be rejected. It is also possible that more than one panel/paper can be accepted.

2012 CIBER Business Language Conference

Building Bridges from Business Languages to Business Communities

The Centers for International Business Education and Research (CIBERs) are pleased to announce the Call for Proposals (CFP) for sessions at the 2012 CIBER Business Language Conference hosted by The University of North Carolina CIBER in Chapel Hill, March 21-23, 2012. The theme for this year's conference is *Building Bridges from Business Languages to Business Communities* and calls for an exchange of ideas on how foreign language educators can best assess and meet the current and future linguistic and cross-cultural needs of professionals operating in diverse and global environments. While new lines of research and new teaching techniques in Languages for Specific Purposes will be discussed more generally, this year's topic will also address linkages from education to business communities and innovations in experiential education. The online proposal submissions are due November 1st, 2011. Please find the CFP at <http://www.ciber.unc.edu/cblc/>. As part of the conference, we will hold a Showcase of Experiential Business Language Programs. If you are interested in showcasing an innovative program that can serve as a model for emulation and would like to share best practices in reaching out to business communities, please

submit the online form for the Poster Session, which can also be found under the CFP at <http://www.ciber.unc.edu/cblc/>

On the conference website, you will also find the agenda and exciting plenary sessions, including a special keynote address at 5.30pm on March 21st by Robert Lane Greene, former linguist, and now reporter for The Economist and author of "You Are What You Speak." We are looking forward to receiving your proposals and seeing you in 2012 at UNC in Chapel Hill!

Fall 2011 JOINT online course, "Designing a Business Japanese Curriculum," is still open for enrollment.

The Alliance of Associations of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ)'s JOINT online course program for Japanese language educators is offering "Designing a Business Japanese Curriculum" this fall, **between September 19 and November 13, 2011**. The course facilitators are Professors Yoshiko Saito-Abbott (California State University, Monterey Bay) and Motoko Tabuse (Eastern Michigan University). Information on the course and on applying to participate can be found online at: <http://www.aatj.org/joint/BusinessCourse.html> . Enrollment will close soon, so if you are interested, please apply.

(3) Grants and Awards Opportunities (No Updates)

(4) Other Information

The following web-sites might be useful to ATJ JSP SIG members.

<http://www.ajinzai-sc.jp/index.html>

(Provides information on the Career Development Program for Foreign Students)

<http://www.academicjapanese.org/sub5.html>

(The Academic Japanese Group (AJG) in Japan is running a workshop entitled *Academic Japanese and Business Japanese*. The workshop will be held in Yonago, Tottori in October of 2011)

<http://www.kanken.or.jp/bjt/>

(Information about the Business Japanese Proficiency Test (BJT); free BJT sample questions are available from <https://www2.kanken.or.jp/bjt/sample/form.cgi>)

<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/gbl/>

(Homepage for the Global Business Languages Journal)

(5) JSP Class in the Spotlight: Business Japanese Course at the University of Pennsylvania Tomoko Takami sensei

At the University of Pennsylvania, Business Japanese/Japanese for Professions courses have been offered every year since the late 1980s. This course is equivalent to fourth year Japanese. The class meets two hours twice a week and is taken by students of many different majors and academic disciplines. The course is designed to teach Japanese with an emphasis on using Japanese for professional purposes.

I started to teach this course in the year 2000. Initially I used a few business Japanese books available on the market, however, I struggled to tailor the curriculum to match the students' needs and interest. Eventually, I developed my own course materials. One of the main components of the teaching material is business cases, which attempt to integrate language, and culture, and business content learning.

I have attempted to design the course to foster the skills and knowledge of effective cross-cultural and inter-personal communication in Japanese and to develop intercultural competence. The specific course objectives are: To understand and be able to use preferable and frequently used vocabulary, expressions, and discourse in business contexts; to improve oral communication skills; to acquire communicative competence in using Japanese for communication in business contexts; to understand Japanese business culture; and to raise consciousness of cross-cultural differences in business and professional worlds and to develop an ability to operate effectively and appropriately in more than one language-culture.

In the process of the course development, I learned the importance of implementing a learner-centered approach. In this course where students' language proficiency, professional fields of interest, and backgrounds vary, I attempt to work closely with each student and monitor their learning process closely through initial needs assessment, mid-term, end of the semester questionnaire, and interviews. As a result, every year I have created new class activities, tasks, and projects, and enjoy learning students' perspectives on their learning process.

Beyond the course itself, I try to encourage students of Japanese language on campus to continue to study Japanese beyond the language requirement (2 years), and visualize the professional opportunities using the Japanese language that may lie ahead, which many students at a beginning level may not have recognized. I have annually organized a student panel on internships and careers in Japan in which upper-year students, including those who take business Japanese, talk about their Japanese work experiences to peer students. Approximately 50 people, including current and past students and their parents, attended the panel. Although small in quantity, some beginning level students are inspired and set their goal of extending the years of studying Japanese and taking business Japanese. I believe that this event serves well

not only for promoting learning on working in Japan but also for advocating learning Japanese language.

(6) Member in the Spotlight: Shingo Satsutani sensei

Shingo Satsutani is a Professor of Asian Languages at the College of DuPage, a community college located at western suburb of Chicago about 30 minutes from O'Hare International Airport. A native of Kyoto, Japan, he holds a B.A. in Western Philosophy and a B.Eng. in Civil Engineering from Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, M.A. in Asian Studies from Seton Hall University, New Jersey. His further academic training was extended to the Doctoral Studies in Language, Literacy and Learning at Fordham University, New York. He has taught at Miami University of Ohio prior to going to College of DuPage in 1994.

Professor Satsutani has led academic travels and international field studies in various places in Japan over thirty times including the College of DuPage Summer Study Abroad Program in Kyoto. He's been an active leadership of ICTFL (Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) and IATJ (Illinois Association of Teachers of Japanese, President) and closely working with Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago (JCCC) and Consulate General of Japan in Chicago as an advisor for Japanese language related matters such as Business Japanese seminar and an annual Japanese Speech Contest. He'd served as a board member of National Council of the Japanese Language Teachers (2003-2006) during which he served as a president (2004-2005). He's been assisting the business matters of the Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS) since 2003 for high school Japanese programs. In 2008, he won the National Award for the teacher of the year (college-level) in the United States.

Professor Satsutani is currently serving as a board member of Association of Teachers of Japanese (ATJ, soon to become AATJ) and working as a member of editing committee for forthcoming first publication of AATJ published through University of Hawaii Press next year.

His goal has been to help others to become global citizens, all the while making an effort to live as one himself. His motto has been "Enjoy the moment (with students) by sharing time and space," and through this shared enjoyment he does hope that his students be able to understand more fully what it means to be part of the human race. It is, therefore, promoting trans-cultural or trans-national understanding is very important for him personally and professionally. He often visits local schools to encourage children to develop an interest in different cultures, and leads students and community members to Japan for their educational experience, through which they could learn 'seasonal esthetics', 'tradition and modernity', 'ancient and medieval architecture', and 'efficient transportation systems' as well as critical contemporary issues such as 'war and peace.' His living and teaching style and motto seems to be evolved from his participation in Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee which sent him as one of the delegation members to the South African Refugees Education camp in Tanzania back in early 1980's. Since then he has been getting involved with various social and political movement.

Having known his academic background of both engineering and humanities as well as social and political activity experience, his students are very lucky to have him as a teacher.

As he is fathering 2-year and 5-year old daughters, his latest keen interest is the Japanese education for the heritage speakers as well as bridging every level of K-16 Japanese education. In addition to his academic interests, Professor Satsutani enjoys ice skating with kids and playing with his family's lovely one-year-old Shiba-inu, Taro.



Keiko Kuriyama, JSP SIG Newsletter Editor
University of Indiana Bloomington
Goodbody Hall 223
1011 E. Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47405
Tel: 812-855-3124; Fax: 812-855-6402
E-mail: kkuriyam@indiana.edu

Tomoko Takami, JSP SIG Coordinator
University of Pennsylvania
843 Williams Hall
255 S. 36th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305
Tel: 215-573-3640; Fax: 215-573-9617
E-mail: ttakami@sas.upenn.edu