ATJ JSP SIG Newsletter: Issue no. 10, April 30, 2011

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. 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 August 31, 2011. Information received by August 21 will appear in the next issue.

(1) JSP SIG Announcements

My name is Keiko Kuriyama. I am an assistant professor and the coordinator of the Japanese Language Program at Indiana University. Starting this issue, I am joining Takamisensei as a newsletter editor.

This issue highlights Uotate-sensei’s Business Japanese course, which is offered at the University of Florida. Uotate-sensei discusses his course, including the innovative activities that he utilizes in it, in the “JSP Class in the Spotlight” section.

This issue’s Member in the Spotlight is Kazuko Suzuki-sensei of the University of Vermont. She has been actively involved in a project to raise funds for Japan Relief programs. You will be amazed to hear how many origami cranes she collected as a part of this project.

Keiko Kuriyama, Editor, JSP-SIG Newsletter

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By the time this newsletter reaches the JSP SIG members, I hope everyone has finished the semester. The 2011 ATJ conference took place on April 2 at the University of Hawai’i’s Manoa Campus, in Honolulu, HI. As announced in the last newsletter, TWO JSP-SIG panels were accepted and presented. I am thankful to all the presenters for their wonderful presentations: Shigeru Osuka sensei, Kayoko Tazawa sensei, Noriko Okimoto sensei, Yasuyo Tokuhiro sensei, and Are Hajikano sensei in the panel entitled “Thinking Possibilities for New Japanese Language Curricula through Japanese for Professionals,” and Yuki Matsuda sensei, Motoko Tabuse sensei, Yoshiko Saito-Abbott sensei, Toshiko Kishimoto sensei, and Masahiko Minami sensei in the panel entitled “Curriculum Development for Business Japanese.”

Also as announced in the previous newsletter, several new JSP courses, most of which are Business Japanese, will be offered at several universities across the USA. This is a striking
phenomenon to note, especially in the current dire circumstances facing world and Japanese language education. This includes cancellations of classes, closures of programs, and layoffs of teachers; yet, these JSP-SIG members successfully initiated new Business Japanese courses. I wish all the best to those teachers who offer such courses, and at the same time, I hope that our engagement and activities in JSP will be more enhanced.

Starting this issue, Keiko Kuriyama sensei is helping me put the newsletters together. Having JSP SIG members more involved will be the key to expanding the JSP-SIG. If any of you are interested in being involved, please feel free to let me know.

The summer is around the corner. We all deserve to relax, re-energize, and have fun. I wish you all a happy summer!

Tomoko Takami, JSP SIG coordinator

(2) Conferences and Workshops

GSU-CIBER Southeast Consortium Grant Writing Workshop (CoSponsor)
May 06, 2011 - Georgia State University

The Southeast Consortium will be conducting a Grant Writing Workshop on May 6th for assistance in grant and proposal construction. This one-day, hands-on workshop covers the full range of the grant process, from needs assessment and identification of potential funding sources through proposal writing and submittal, to planning for evaluation and continuation. Specific reference will be made to International Business-oriented grant programs. Participants will have the chance to review and compare successful grant proposals. Special attention will be given to the proper development of a BIE grant and other federal offered grants.

9th Annual Summer Institute for Teaching a Second Language for Business Communication (CoSponsor)
June 19 - 24, 2011 - University of Pennsylvania

The Summer Institute for Teaching a Second Language for Business Communication is designed primarily for secondary and post-secondary language educators. This program includes an overview of basic business fundamentals, combined with discussion of current issues in language-teaching methodology and curriculum design. Participants work on group projects in which they design curriculum modules that apply the concepts addressed during the program. Participants who are Pennsylvania or New Jersey public school teachers are eligible to receive continuing-education credit.

File: View Associated File
Location: Lauder Institute, Lauder-Fischer Hall, University of Pennsylvania
[More Details]
(5) JSP Class in the Spotlight:

Business Japanese Course at the University of Florida:
Yasuo Uotate sensei

At the University of Florida “Business Japanese” (JPN 3440) has been offered every spring since the spring of 2006. In order to take this course, students are required to have completed four semesters of university-level study of Beginning and Intermediate Japanese (JPN 1130-1131 and JPN 2230-2231, completion of Yookoso Vol. 1 and 2), or the equivalent.

I have been using Kikuuchi-sensei’s (2004) A Systematic Approach to Business Japanese as the main textbook because of its focus on improving students’ skills in oral communication. This makes a good balance with the other Japanese language courses offered here. We have first-, second-, and third-year Japanese courses which incorporate the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. However, for the fourth-year courses, the focus shifts mainly to the reading and translation of authentic Japanese texts.

I would like to briefly explain two “Business Japanese” course activities that improve not only students’ language skills, but also foster students’ interest in business and autonomy. One is “Japanese Program Promotion Project”, and the other is “News Discussion.”

The primary goals of “Japanese Program Promotion Project” are to improve writing and presentation skills in Japanese as well as to develop cultural and business awareness through various project assignments with peers. The secondary goal of this project is to promote our Japanese Program by increasing its visibility. After completing the first few assignments, students actually promote the Japanese Program, using one or two social networking or other online services (Facebook, YouTube, etc.). This project also includes assignments such as commercial analysis and creation of short commercials to promote the Japanese program.

The goals of “News Discussion” are to develop language skills, delivery skills, and cultural awareness through study with their peers of current issues and trends in business. This activity starts with assigned discussion leaders finding a business-related news article in Japanese and posting it on E-Learning in Sakai, an online course management system. Prior to a discussion in class, students turn in a summary of the article and post their comments and questions on Sakai so all the students are expected to prepare for the discussion. During a semester students discuss several news items.
(6) Member in the Spotlight: Kazuko Suzuki sensei

Kazuko Suzuki is a Senior Lecturer of Japanese in the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures at the University of Vermont. She primarily teaches beginning and advanced level Japanese language. She also teaches Japanese culture during winter sessions and takes a group of students on a faculty-led trip to Japan in summer. She incorporates service-learning components in some of her courses where her students teach about Japan at local schools in Vermont and teach about America and Vermont at schools in Japan. In addition, she has taught Business Japanese and Culture at IBM in Vermont and Boulder, Colorado. She is planning to write a textbook and will spend her sabbatical in Japan together with her husband who will be conducting research on Japanese politics. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her husband, especially to Asia to meet their families and friends and enjoy onsen.

Since the devastating disaster in Japan, she has been busy with a fundraising project through Students Rebuild. Thanks to the Bezos Family Foundation, $2 for each origami crane will be donated towards Architecture for Humanity’s reconstruction efforts in Japan. She facilitated a workshop on how to make origami cranes, and the students at the University of Vermont started making thousands of paper cranes. This fundraising workshop announcement spread throughout Vermont. A total of 41,948 origami cranes were delivered to her office from the university community as well as many schools and individuals from all over Vermont. She shipped 32,693 paper cranes to Students Rebuild. After Students Rebuild had achieved their goal of 100,000 cranes, she delivered the remaining 9,255 paper cranes to OshKosh B’gosh, which will send an article of clothing for each crane to children in Japan.

Warm wishes and sincere prayers go out to those who have been affected by the recent Japan’s earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis. Nippon, Ganbatte!
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