

# The Tidings

## Message from the president

AFTJ会員の皆様、

この度、2011年から2013年まで2年間会長をさせていただくことになりました小村直子です。会長という役に選ばれたことを大変光栄に思うと同時に、これから皆様と一緒にお仕事していくことを大変楽しみにしております。まだまだ至らないところばかりですが、新役員と共にAFTJの代表としてAFTJがより一層の高みを目指していけるようベストを尽くして参る所存ですので、ご指導ご鞭撻のほど宜しくお願いします。

会長として今後2年間の目標は、地域社会との繋がりをさらに強化し、日本文化、日本語教育に対する理解を深めることです。そのために、新役員を中心として各地域の先生方が一丸となり、各コミュニティのイベントなどを通して日本文化、日本語教育のより一層の普及に努めていけたらと考えております。そのためには皆様のご協力なしには達成できません。どうぞサポートのほど宜しくお願いします。

さて、8月6、7日にはオーランドでArticulation Dayが1泊2日で行われました。3年目となる今年は、過去最高の11名のメンバーが参加しました。まず、夏休みに参加した学会、勉強会について報告、その後日本語教師としての役割を話し合い、新学期に向け意義のある勉強会を開催出来ました。そして、すきやきを共に囲み近況報告をしあい、お互いを知る上でも良い機会となりました。また、10月13日から15日にはFFLAの学会がポートカナベラルで行われました。AFTJから10名のメンバーが参加し、7名のメンバーがこの学会で発表しました。先生方の日々の努力と活躍を垣間見ることができる様々なクラスのアイディアが発表され、たくさんの刺激を受けた学会となりました。皆様お疲れ様でした。

2011-12年度もう早2ヶ月が経ちました。一年のうち最も華やかで忙しいホリデーシーズンの到来です。皆様くれぐれも体調を崩される事なく、年の瀬に向けて頑張りましょう。

小村直子、AFTJ会長

My name is Naoko Komura, the new president of AFTJ for 2011-2013. I am very pleased to be elected as president, and I am very excited to work with you. I need to learn quite a bit as a president, but I will do my best with our new board members to lead AFTJ in becoming an even better organization. I greatly appreciate the guidance provided via input from our membership.

As a president of AFTJ, the goal in my term will be to increase connections with local communities, as well as understanding of Japanese culture

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### AFTJ BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Naoko Komura

VICE PRESIDENT

Mako Nozu

SECRETARY

Etsuko Woodbury

DIRECTOR

Mieko Avello

Yukari Nakamura

Treasurer

Yasuo Uotate

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NESLETTER EDITOR

Naoko Komura

and Japanese language education. In order to reach this goal, I would like all members to continue our strong ties, especially among new board members. I also plan to promote Japanese culture and Japanese language education through local events in each community. Without your support, we cannot reach this goal. Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated.

We had an "Articulation Day" on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Orlando. This is the third year such an event was held. Eleven members attended, which is record high participation. First, some members reported about the conferences they attended. Then we discussed our roles as Japanese teachers. It was a productive study session for the new school year. At dinner, we had lively discussions while eating Sukiyaki. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other better. Also, the Florida Foreign Language Association (FFLA) annual conference was held between October 13 - 15 in Cape Canaveral. Ten AFTJ members attended this conference and 7 members made presentations. They introduced numerous creative classroom ideas, showing their effort and spirit. All presentations were very stimulating and informative!

Two months have passed since the new school year started. The holiday season is the most exciting and busiest of the year and it is coming soon. Please take care of yourselves. Ganbarimasho!

Naoko Komura, President of AFTJ

## New board members 2011-2013

President: **Naoko Komura**, Florida International University  
Vice president: **Mako Nozu**, University of South Florida  
Secretary: **Etsuko Woodbury**, Mainland High School  
Director: **Mieko Avello**, Palmetto Senior High School  
**Yukari Nakamura**, University of Florida  
Treasurer **Yasuo Uotate**, University of Florida



どうぞ宜しくお願いいたします。

# School Reports

K-12

## Watkins Elementary Magnet School, Hollywood

Here at Watkins Elementary School in Broward County, we had an exciting start for the school year of 2011-12! We started off with learning greetings, counting numbers, colors, and common phrases along with Japanese culture such as Kimono and Sumo. Students are especially excited about the Kimono try out, and as an instructor I have to know how to do my Obi (Sash for Kimono robe). After researching how to make different Obi styles and some practice, I was finally able to demonstrate how to make various Obi in a few minutes. For the elementary level students, cultural awareness is an important element in learning a foreign language. Curiosity about other life styles and cultures triggers the motivation and engagement toward the language. This year, I am planning to integrate various cultural activities such as a kite making & flying competition for the New Year, Rice ball luncheon, Calligraphy, Making chopsticks, and Haiku. I am sure this year is going to be exciting and meaningful!

- Fusako Lang



## Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Miami

There are four classes offered this year at Miami Palmetto Senior High School. Japanese 1 with 30 students, Japanese 2 with 15 students, Japanese 3 with 14 students, and AP with 6 students. Japanese 3 and AP are combined again.

The Japan Bowl team who placed 4<sup>th</sup> for two consecutive years will try this year's competition at level 4. The team is aiming this year to finish in the national top three.

We are incorporating more cultural activities this year. Students are anticipating something new every Friday. We have done Kingyo sukui, yo yo tsuru, and a Ball catching game as Obon activities, Takenoko gohan cooking, Making of tsukimi dango as part of Otsukimi, and as Halloween is approaching we are going to watch a Japanese horror movie.

Our traditional soran dancing team is still continuing strong. The new students are working hard to master this energetic Japanese traditional dance.

We are trying to make a few sets of senbazuru this year again to donate them to Children's hospitals in Miami area.

Since Kagoshima students may be visiting us early this year, we are getting ready to welcome them. This includes school wide welcome party and shodo performance by AP students.

-Mieko Avello

### **Mainland High School, Daytona Beach**

This school year I have 3 sections of Japanese 1, 1 section each of Japanese 2 and 3. I am very excited that my 3<sup>rd</sup> year class had the largest enrollment ever. I will be focusing this year on academic competition participation.

We held the first Mainland HS Japanese club meeting on September 22. Over 30 students attended for new officer selection and the new club shirt design. This year, we had about 6 talented artists enter the contest and the design was chosen from the artwork by Destinee Riley (10<sup>th</sup>).

- Etsuko Woodbury

### **Western High School, Davie**

We have changed our schedule again this year at Western High. We have 2 classes of Japanese level 1 and 1 class of level 3 for the first semester and have 3 classes of level 2 and 5 students will be taking AP class for the second semester.

We are very fortunate to implement a pilot program in our level 3 class in collaboration with Morikami Park, Blue Planet Writers' Room and Kyoto Subaru High School. The representatives from Morikami and Blue Planet visit our level 3 class every other week to help them improve their writing skills in Japanese and English. We also plan to communicate with the Kyoto Subaru High School students in Japanese and English via a various technology. These students will also contact our local Japanese business people to learn how Japanese companies are different from America's. My students are very excited about this project, and we hope they will improve their communication skills by the end of this semester.

- Satoko Fisher

### **Lyman High School, Longwood**

Lyman high school offers three standard Japanese classes, the dialect of Japanese spoken in Tokyo. The core of the program consists of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the language.

In Japanese I, we develop basic survival-level linguistic skills, including the ability to read and write hiragana, katakana, and approximately 20 jooyoo kanji. Japanese II and III also continue to expand speaking skills, including the ability to read and write in higher levels of jooyoo kanji. The Japanese Language Program considers the integration of in-class learning with extra-curricular life of students as an essential part of successful language learning. Among opportunities for students to experience such integration is a project exchanging e-mails, letters, and video letters with high school students in Japan for the second and third year students; and creating a short video that interviews teachers and introduces facilities of the school in Japanese and English. Other activities are participating in a county-wide culture festival and inviting special speakers/ presenters to experience of Japanese culture.

- Midori Imhoof

## Ocoee High School, Ocoee

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year since I started working at Ocoee High School. The new school year has begun smoothly. This year, we have fewer students than usual, but the students are doing their best. We have 21 students in Japanese 1, 15 students in Japanese 2, 7 students in Japanese 3, and 1 student in AP Japanese. We are trying to be more participatory in Japanese language and culture-related events. I look forward to establishing connection with other Japanese teachers in Florida.

- Jason Thorndill

## University

### Florida International University, Miami

In the Fall semester, we are offering eleven language courses; three sections of Japanese I, two sections of Japanese II, two sections of Intermediate Japanese I, two sections of Intermediate Japanese II, Advanced Japanese I, and Intermediate Japanese Conversation. We also are offering Japan related courses such as Japanese Culture and Society, Japanese Literature and Cinema, Introduction to East Asia, and various graduate courses on Japanese society, history, and politics. In the spring, we will offer our first online Advanced Composition class.

In this school year, nine exchange students from Ritsumeikan University, Kansai Gaidai University and Kanda University are attending FIU. Several Japanese students are regularly visiting to Japanese classes to help students' Japanese.

We have several events during this school year. First, the Japan club and the JET Alumni Association in Florida created the East Japan Earthquake Charity Film Series collaborating with other clubs, departments, and programs. At the first event, we showed "Nitaboh," had a bake sale and used a donation box at the entrance for fund raising for the East Japan Earthquake Relief Fund. The Consulate General of Japan generously provided the film. The first film event in October was very successful and they are planning the second one in November.

Also, CIBER (Center for International Business Education and Research) will have its annual K-12 Language for Business Conference at FIU on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There will be Japanese language group sessions at this conference. Please check the link for more details. <http://ciber.fiu.edu/k12language.php> Last, FIU's Asian Studies program will have its annual Southern Japan Seminar on February 17 and 18, 2012. There will be a reception at the Consulate residency on Friday February 17. Please find details at this link. <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/asian/>

- Naoko Komura



## The University of South Florida, Tampa

At the University of South Florida, Both Nozu and Ohtani-sensei welcomed Tamako Ratliff-sensei as an adjunct instructor. We offer 5 sections of Japanese I, 2 sections of Japanese III, 1 section of Japanese V and Japanese Calligraphy this fall, and more than 200 students are enrolled in these classes. We are very happy to offer Japanese Calligraphy by our calligraphy master, Ohtani-sensei, for the first time, and it has been very popular among the students. They are enthusiastic and practice daily outside of class. Local volunteers also assist Ohtani-sensei in class to help the students learn the appropriate brush use.

We are planning our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Japanese picnic on Saturday, October 29 at USF Riverfront Park. If anyone is interested, please contact Nozu-([mnozu@usf.edu](mailto:mnozu@usf.edu)) for the details.

We are also excited to have Dr. Stephan Schindler as the new department chair this year and appreciate his support for the Japanese program.

- Mako Nozu



## The University of Florida, Gainesville

This fall semester at the University of Florida, we are offering 5 sections of Beginning Japanese, 3 sections of Intermediate Japanese, 2 sections of Advanced Japanese courses, and Readings in Japanese Literature, which is a fourth-year Japanese course based on literary texts, incorporating advanced reading skills and the analysis of literature in the original. We have about 200 students enrolled in the language courses this semester. In addition to these courses, we are offering a variety of content courses in our program: Japanese Culture, Language and Japanese Society, and the Tale of Genji. This year, the University of Florida is hosting 5 students from Kansai Gaidai University and 2 students from Aoyama Gakuin University. From the last week of September, we will have a weekly official language table to provide greater opportunity for our students to interact with Japanese students in order to enhance their proficiency further. As many as 9 students who have taken Japanese courses at UF also volunteered to help our Beginning Japanese students practice Japanese as 先輩volunteers at the language table.

On Thursday, November 10, we will have an exciting Japanese Museum Night at the Harn Museum. This is a part of Asian Kaleidoscope Month and the special exhibition: "Soaring Voices: Contemporary Japanese Women Ceramic Artists (October 16, 2011 - December 31, 2011)." At the Museum Night, Japanese instructors and Advanced Japanese students at UF will give a small Japanese language lesson on this event. We hope that this event will be helpful to raise

cultural awareness of Japan in the community.

Two students who have studied Japanese at UF started working for Mitsubishi in Japan from this summer. They were placed in Yokohama and Takasago (Hyogo prefecture) respectively. We are wishing them the best and hope that more and more students will use Japanese for their future career.

- Yukari Nakamura

### **The University of Tampa, Tampa**

UT is holding 3 Japanese classes this semester - 101, 102, and 201. In recent years, 101 is offered both in the fall and spring semester, and the registration is full all the time. For this semester, we offered 201 for the first time and 9 students registered. 9 is a small number, but they all like and enjoy the class very much. Ms. Tamako Ratliff joined as a lecturer from this fall semester.

- Sumi Ham

### **The University of Miami, Miami**

The department of Modern languages and Literatures has added two more sections of Japanese beginning courses this semester, fall, 2011. This semester we are offering two sections of JPN101 and one section of JPN201 in total, and all the sections are full (25 students maximum per class)! Moreover, I had a number of students asking for an override, which I turned down due to my own policy for class management. UM has been receiving a strong wave of Chinese students, which has turned out to be favorable for Japanese courses. Chinese students form about 30% of the students who registered for JPN101 this semester.

- Eiko Isogai Williams



## Articulation Day Report

We had the third annual Articulation Day on August 6-7 in Kissimmee, FL. 12 members participated from Miami, Orlando, and Tampa areas. The participants reported what they have learned at the conferences they attended and discuss the roles of the Japanese teachers and the prospects of the Japanese programs. We cooked Sukiyaki for dinner together and enjoyed the evening together! (Reported by Mako Nozu)



## FFLA Annual Conference Report

Florida Foreign Languages Association's annual conference was held at Raddison Resort in Cape Canaveral on October 13-15, 2011. We also had the AFTJ annual meeting from 5:10 to 6:10 p.m. on Friday, October 14.

Ten AFTJ members (Mieko Avello, Yuki Dougherty, Naoko Komura, Lissette Vergara Leon, Yukari Nakamura, Mako Nozu, Taketo Ohtani, Miyuki Pinkard, Yasuo Uotate, Etsuko Woodbury) teaching at various levels (elementary school, high school, and university) participated from Gainesville, Miami, Orlando and Tampa areas. The presentation topics varied from practical classroom techniques/ methods to cultural component such as calligraphy (see below for the presentation topics). All the presentations were interactive and attendees actively exchanged the ideas.

- Mieko Avello (Miami Palmetto Senior High School)  
Fun and Effective Ways to Apply Business Languages in K-12
- Naoko Komura (Florida International University)  
Are you ready? Importance of Warming Up in the Language Classroom
- Yukari Nakamura (University of Florida)  
Student-Led Reading Activity for Intermediate Level Language Learners
- Mako Nozu (University of South Florida)  
Speaking Practice with Dialogues
- Taketo Ohtani (University of South Florida)  
Japanese Calligraphy



- Yasuo Uotate (University of Florida)

Language Program Promotion Projects for Your Students

- Etsuko Woodbury (Woodland High School)

Japanese Grammar Instruction and Next Generation Standards

In addition to attending the presentations, we went to the local Thai restaurant for lunch and dinner, and enjoyed socializing!

It was a very productive gathering and we all gained energy to promote Japanese language education in our respective areas in Florida!

(reported by Yukari Nakamura)



## Other

### **The Pilot Central Florida Japanese competition at Volusia County Festival**

The Volusia County Foreign Language Festival will be held on Saturday, February 25th, 2012 at New Smyrna Beach HS. I am very pleased to announce that Central Florida area Japanese students are invited for the first time! If you are interested in bringing students and/or helping out with the competition, please contact Etsuko Woodbury, Japanese teacher Mainland High School; [ewoodbur@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:ewoodbur@volusia.k12.fl.us).

### **AFTJ Annual Meeting**

We will have an annual meeting at **The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens**, Delray Beach, on **Saturday, May 12, 2012** between **1:00pm and 4:00pm**. Please check your calendar. I hope to see you all at our annual meeting!

**Association of Florida  
Teachers of Japanese**

President  
Naoko Komura

E-mail:  
komuran@fiu.edu

**AFTJ Website:**  
[www.aftj.net](http://www.aftj.net)

**AFTJ Annual Membership 2011-2012**

If you have not paid your AFTJ membership for 2011-2012 please pay **by November 15, 2011**. You can download the membership form from:

[www.aftj.net/membership.html](http://www.aftj.net/membership.html).

Please make your check payable to **AFTJ** and submit to:

**Yasuo Uotate, AFTJ Treasurer**  
**P.O. Box 115565, 333 Pugh Hall**  
**University of Florida**  
**Gainesville, FL 32611-5565**

## **AFTJ Calendar of Events**

FFLA Annual Conference	October 13-15, 2011	Port Canaveral
Social Picnic	October 29, 2011	Tampa
AFTJ JLPT scholarship deadline	October 30, 2011	
Japanese Museum Night	November 10, 2011	UF Harn Museum
Pocky day event	November 11, 2011	Tampa
Grammar Instruction Workshop	November 11, 2011	Kissimmee
ACTFL Annual Conference	November 18-20, 2011	Denver, CO
Japan Immersion Day – East	December 12, 2011	FIU campus
CIBER K-12 Business Language Conference	January 14, 2012	FIU campus
Speech committee meeting - East	January, 2012	TBA
Volusia County Foreign Language Festival	February 25, 2012	New Smyrna Beach HS
Japanese Speech and Skit Contest -East	March 24, 2012 (tentative)	FIU campus
National Japan Bowl Competition	April 11 and 12, 2012	Maryland
Japanese Speech and Skit Contest – West	April 14, 2012 (tentative)	TBA
AFTJ Board Meeting	April, 2011	TBA
Annual Meeting	May 12, 2012	The Morikami Museum, Delray Beach

If you have any comment or question, please contact Naoko Komura (komuran@fiu.edu).