OATJ (Ohio Association for Teachers of Japanese) Annual Report

The OATJ had an annual conference at The Metro School in Columbus on Saturday, September 11, 2011. We had two university student presenters (Caitlin Adkins & Shawna McAllister, The University of Findlay), one member presenter (Dai Yamamoto, Benjamin Logan High School) and two guest presenters (Masako Inamoto, Skidmore College & Molly Jeon, Bloomington High School North). During the meeting, new officers were elected.

The new officers are:
- President: Hiroaki Kawamura, The University of Findlay
- Vice president: Dai Yamamoto, Benjamin Logan High School
- Secretary: Karen Curtin, The Ohio State University
- Treasurer: John Rockelman, Dublin Scioto High School
- Web master: Mika Wolfford, Xavier University

2011-2012 Updates:
- There were two organizations for teachers of Japanese at the national level, NCJLT (National Council of Japanese Language Teachers, K-12) and ATJ (Association of Teachers of Japanese, college/university). In 2012, ATJ and NCJLT will merge and form AATJ (American Association of Teachers of Japanese). OATJ will be a local affiliate of AATJ.
- On March 3, Ohio Japanese Language Speech Contest was held at The Ohio State University. Participants competed at high school and university levels.
  - Finalists
    - High School level
      - Prachi Bansal (Dublin Scioto High School) “The Things I Like”
      - Geoff Brown (Kirtland High School) “Why Do Americans Want to Watch Anime”
      - Josie Coleman (Benjamin Logan High School) “Education”
      - Natalie D’Eramo (Dublin Scioto High School) “My friend”
      - Mary Evans (Benjamin Logan High School) “Foreign Language”
      - Young Kwon (Dublin Scioto High School) “Korean and Japanese”
      - Carrie Leese (Benjamin Logan High School) “My Inspiration”
      - Nayan Mandan (Sycamore High School) “My Chosen Path”
      - Aliah Owens (Dublin Scioto High School) “Music”
      - Darien Pooler (Benjamin Logan High School) “Peace”
    - University level
      - Hyeran Chung (Ohio University) “Three Important Things for Me”
      - Tianyu (Aya) Du (Case Western University) “The Problem of America’s Education”
      - Mike Gillum (The University of Findlay) “Japan Seen through the Eyes of My Grandmother”
      - Amy Goodnite (Ohio University) “Hikikomori: Acute Social Withdrawal”
      - Brandon Jarrell (Ohio University) “Modern Day Language Study”
      - Matthew Korn (The Ohio State University) “Always Smiling Imae-san”
      - Bryan Le (The Ohio State University) “My Dreams”
      - Yiran Luo (The Ohio State University) “Why Japanese Do Not Use Facebook”
      - Laura McGhee (The Ohio State University) “The Disney land Promise”
      - Justin Wheeler (The University of Findlay) “Japan, Ohio and I”
Photos from the Annual Conference

Conference Participants

Keynote speaker
Ms. Molly Jeon

_Furusato no Minyo: Japanese Language and Culture Through Folk Song_

Guest presenter
Dr. Masako Inamoto

Technology in the Japanese Language Classroom

Breakout session