

Ohio Association of Teachers of Japanese (OATJ) Annual Report (November 5, 2013)

One of our members, Prof. Akiko Kawano Jones (Bowling Green State University), received the 2013 AATJ (American Association of Teachers of Japanese) Teacher of the Year Award during the ACTFL/AATJ convention in Florida on November 23. Not only her dedication to her students, program and professional organizations but also her effort to link the language education with the business and government sectors was recognized.

OATJ held its annual conference at The University of Findlay on Sunday, November 3, 2013. The theme of the conference was “Lifelong Learning for Japanese Language Learners: Preparing Students for the Workplace.” 51 people attended the meeting, and they came not only from Ohio but also Michigan and Indiana. Various speakers talked about the link between language classrooms and various careers.

Presentation of business matters: <http://oatj.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/oatj-annual-meeting-semi-final-2013.pdf>

Presentation on working as a translator in local businesses:

<http://oatj.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/growing-translators-in-the-japanese-classroom.pdf>

During the above conference, an election was held and new officers were elected. They are as follows:

- President: Hiroaki Kawamura (The University of Findlay)
- Vice president: Rebecca Allen (Dublin City Schools)
- Treasurer: Teppei Kiyosue (The Ohio State University)
- Secretary: Terumi Imai (Wittenberg University)
- Webmaster: Dai Yamamoto (Ben Logan High School)

*Officially, webmaster is not an officer position.

Thanks to the generosity of The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles, OATJ President Hiroaki Kawamura and Vice-president Rebecca Allen were able to attend the ACTFL 2013 Annual Convention in November 2013. They participated in an intensive Leadership Workshop group along with two representative Japanese teachers from Michigan and two from California. Regional advocacy, professional development, and K-16 articulation of Japanese language programs were key foci of this working group.

Description of workshop: <http://www.jflalc.org/pub-breeze74-JLEU01.html>

The annual Japan Language Speech competition was held on Saturday, March 1st at Dublin City Hall. This is the 15th year for the Speech Contest, but the first time that a

college/career fair directed at students of Japanese was created to expand this event. The career fair will continue to be part of this annual event, and we are collaborating with the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio to increase the activities offered to include a wide variety of resources and information for students, their families, and schools.

Photographs and results from the speech contest:

<http://oatj.wordpress.com/bulletin/>

For the near future, we are hoping to offer an AP Japanese Language and Culture workshop, and to further collaborate on improving our statewide vertical articulation of programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Allen, OATJ Vice-President