WYATT EXPLORATION PROGRAM
Japan: Its History and People
2014-2015
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About the Program

Each year, the Wyatt Exploration Program will provide a unique and exciting opportunity for students and faculty to join together in the intellectual exploration of the human past. Organized by the Department of History with financial support from the Wyatt Endowment, the program focuses on the history and culture of a specific place or on a particular historical topic. This theme will change on an annual basis, allowing our explorations to span the history of our country and the world beyond. The department’s Wyatt Fellow, a faculty member who is an expert in the field under exploration, will plan and organize the program. Featuring affiliated course offerings, special extra-curricular events on campus, and a competition to participate in a university-funded student travel expedition, the Wyatt Exploration Program will enrich and deepen our understanding of the world and its history.

The Department of History is thrilled with this unique opportunity for learning and enrichment that the Wyatt Exploration Program will provide at the University of Michigan-Flint. The department's faculty looks forward to sharing these incredible experiences with our students and hopes that all of you will share in our excitement as we explore the history of the world around us.

Wyatt Travel Expedition

The culmination of each year's exploration will take place in either the spring or summer semester with a student travel expedition led by our Wyatt Fellow. Selected from our history majors (including TCP and Honors), a group of students will be invited by the History Department to participate in this trip. Most student travel expenses will be fully funded by the Department of History. Selection will be based on several factors, including the student’s academic record and coursework in the field under study. However, the primary factor to be considered will be active participation in that year's on-campus Wyatt Exploration events. You don't need to have the highest GPA or to have taken courses in the subject under exploration to be selected. Rather, we are looking to assemble a diverse team of students who have demonstrated their enthusiasm and engagement with the on-campus exploration activities, who are most likely to benefit from the travel experience and who will work together most effectively as a group. Every history major is truly a potential candidate for selection and we encourage all of our students to participate and apply. Students will complete and submit an application form to be considered for the selection process in winter semester, 2015.
Guest Lecture Series
A central part of the Wyatt Exploration Program is our guest lecture series. During the course of the fall and winter semesters, the program will bring celebrated scholars from around the nation and world to our campus to speak on that year's theme. This is a great opportunity to meet and learn from acknowledged experts in their field while developing a sense of history as an intellectual community, endeavor, and discipline. For history majors, participation in the guest lecture series is expected of all potential candidates for the travel expedition. Although we understand that students may not be able to attend all of these sessions, please try to attend as many of these events as possible to maximize your potential as a travel expedition participant.

Coursework and Extra-Curricular Activities
A list of affiliated courses will match the subject of exploration for that year. Although primarily history courses, this list may also include courses in other disciplines that complement the theme. Students will have the opportunity to take some of these courses during the academic year. If students have already taken any of these courses in previous years, this will also be recognized in the selection process for the Wyatt Travel Expedition. The exploration program provides a wonderful opportunity for additional depth of instruction and experience for those students who are taking or have taken one or more of these courses. However, history majors are still viable candidates for the travel expedition even if they have not taken any of these affiliated courses and they are encouraged to participate in other on-campus exploration activities instead. In addition to the guest lecture series and formal coursework, the Wyatt Fellow may organize co-curricular activities and discussion sessions devoted to the year's theme. All students are invited to these activities and participation will be considered in the selection process for the travel expedition.

Wyatt Exploration Passports
To chart student participation in Wyatt events, history majors will receive a Wyatt Exploration Program Passport. Bring this passport to any Wyatt Exploration Program event or activity, and you will receive a stamp that verifies your attendance. Students will then submit this passport along with their travel application, and the number of stamps they have collected will be considered in the selection process for the travel expedition. Be sure to retrieve your passport each year from the history department after the competition is over, as you can continue to use it for the following year. Stamps collected in previous years will be considered in the travel expedition selection process. So, start collecting stamps!

For more information on the Wyatt Exploration Program visit us online at:
www.umflint.edu/history/wyatt.htm
“Japan: Its History and People” is this year’s theme for the Wyatt Exploration Program. Japan has a very long and rich history. Ruled by chieftains during antiquity, aristocracy emerged and established the imperial system that governed all of Japan. After centuries of rule, the samurai (aristocratic warriors) grabbed hegemony of Japan and maintained their hegemony until the mid 19th century. Faced with the rapidly changing world of 19th century brought upon by western nations’ thrust into the Pacific, the samurai dismantled their own world and instituted various reforms and changes for survival. Not only did Japan survive but also become the first Asian nation to form a constitution that called for a constitutional monarchy. By the beginning of the 20th century, Japan became a world power but this century was one of turmoil. The democratic tradition was derailed and the militarists gained control of Japan. The Second World War resulted in Japan’s first defeat and occupation by foreign powers, its industrial base and cities destroyed, and its people starving on the streets. However, in less than a decade after the war, Japan was rebounding back and saw what is commonly known as an “economic miracle.” This economic recovery resulted in an interesting dichotomy; Japan and the United States clashed viciously over trade issues, but at the same time acknowledged that the alliance between the two countries were indispensable. The post war Japan also saw a boom in American popular culture. Initially, fashion, movies, and music poured into Japan; then, in 1971, MacDonald’s opened its first Asian store in Tokyo. MacDonald’s became part of the Japanese vocabulary. By the late 20th century, Japanese culture became much more visible in the United States. Generations grew up with Sony and Nintendo and some immersed themselves in anime. As Japanese things became more common in the United States, people to people contact increased as more Americans went to Japan.

Japan is a country that has experienced a number of changes, but despite these changes, tradition remains strong and the Japanese have a strong sense of history. As we journey through this year’s Wyatt Exploration Program, we will experience this history and its people. The ancient capital of Kyoto retains much of its past. You will navigate through streets that were walked by those in the 10th century and visit Buddhist institutions that have been visited by the Japanese for centuries. In contrast to Kyoto, Fukuoka is a bustling city with its high rises and subway. It is also a city with great history. Fukuoka has always been a gateway to Asia, but this was where the Mongols landed in their efforts to invade Japan. The magnitude of this invasion can be felt by visiting Borui (sea wall). There is Daizaifu Tenmangu, a Shinto shrine built in the 10th century, outside of Fukuoka that is visited by 1000’s of students each year. Daizaifu’s deity is for scholarship; perhaps, a must visit for us.

Besides history, this Wyatt Exploration Program will be exploring the Japanese people through the lens of immigration and war. In Honolulu, we will visit the Hawai’i’s Plantation Village to catch a glimpse of the conditions surrounding the Japanese immigrants in Hawai’i. In Japan, there will be lectures in Fukuoka and Okinawa on the
Japanese immigration. A very dark chapter in the US-Japan relationship is the Second World War. This trip will take place during the 70th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. We will see how this war is being remembered by visiting Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima Peace Museum and various sites in Okinawa, including where the last battle of the Pacific War took place.

Visiting historical sites are meaningful. It is possible to feel the past. Another important aspect of this program is for the students to meet their Japanese counterparts. Thus, this program includes activities with students from Kitakyushu University. The value of understanding each other’s culture is immeasurable, and hopefully, students will engage in building bridges between the two countries.

Affiliated Courses:

- HIS 334: History of Ethnicity and Race in the United States
- HIS 371: Japan from Antiquity to 1300
- HIS 377: Japan from 1300 to 1800
- HIS 378: Japan from 1800 to Present
- HIS 393: Special Topic – Age of the Samurai
- HIS 479: Pacific World in Transition since the 19th Century
“Okinawa and the US Military Base Industrial Complex: An Issue of Ethnic Nationalism”
David Tōbaru Obermiller
Friday, September 26, 2014, 4 p.m.
250 French Hall

David Tōbaru Obermiller is an Associate Professor of History at Gustavus Adolphus College. He also teaches in the Program of Japanese Studies and Environmental Studies. Obermiller received his M.A. from the University of Iowa in History and Asian Languages and Literature. In 2006, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in History. He recently published an article titled “Dreaming Ryūkyū: Shifting and Contesting Identities in Okinawa” in Japan Since 1945: From Postwar to Post-Bubble (Bloomsbury Press 2013).

“Symbols of Enlightenment”
George Kosho Finch
Friday, October 24, 2014, 4 p.m.
Happenings, 1st Floor UCEN

A Detroit native, George Finch received his B.A. in International Relations and East Asian Languages from James Madison College at Michigan State University. In 2006, he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Wallamette University College of Law. He started his religious studies in Shingon Buddhism in 2000 at California and Mt. Köya, Japan. His Buddhist education continued until 2009, and he is an ordained Shingon Buddhist priest. Kosho is his Buddhist name. Kosho has founded two organizations, 1) the Foundation for Shingon Buddhism that promotes Shingon Buddhism and 2) Practice Balance, which is a non-profit organization focusing on health maintenance and mindful practices.
“Asian Immigration Issues: The Japanese in Hawai‘i and the Continent”
Franklin Odo
Friday, November 14, 2014 4 p.m.
Happenings, 1st Floor UCEN

Franklin Odo was Founding Director of the Asian Pacific American Center at the Smithsonian Institution and Chief of the Asian Division, Library of Congress. Odo was on the faculty when Asian American Studies was established at UCLA. He taught at the University of Hawai‘i, U Penn, Hunter College, Princeton, and Columbia. His book, No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawai‘i during World War II, was published by Temple University Press in 2004; he edited the Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience, published by Columbia University Press in 2002. Voices from the Canefields: Folksongs from Japanese Immigrant Workers in Hawai‘i was published by Oxford in 2013. He has a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Asian American Studies and a Distinguished Service Award from the Asian American Justice Center. Odo was Humanist in Residence at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities at Brown University in April 2013. He currently leads a “Theme Study on Asian American Pacific Islanders” for the National Historic Landmarks Project of the National Park System.

Nagata Shachu
Friday, October 10, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Theatre

Nagata Shachu, based in Toronto, Canada, has enthralled audiences with its mesmerizing and heart-pounding performances of the Japanese drum (taiko) since its formation in 1998. The group has toured widely throughout Canada, the US and Italy performing in theatres, concert halls, and major music festivals.

While rooted in the folk drumming traditions of Japan, the ensemble’s principal aim is to rejuvenate this ancient art form by producing innovative and exciting music that seeks to create a new voice for the taiko. Taking it’s name from founder Kiyoshi Nagata and the Japanese word shachu meaning group, Nagata Shachu, has become renowned for its exciting, straightforward yet physically demanding performances as well as for its diverse repertoire. Their playing is the combination of unbounded spirit and passion with the highest levels of musicianship and discipline. The result is an unforgettable experience that is both powerful in expression and heartfelt in its sincerity.

Featuring an arsenal of taiko, bamboo flutes, the three-stringed shamisen and an array of gongs, cymbals, shakers and wood blocks, Nagata Shachu will take you on a musical journey beyond all borders.
Kyoto: The seat of aristocratic rule during the Heian Period (794-1185). Known as Heian-kyō, this imperial city remained as the capital of Japan until 1869.

Ginkakuji: The Temple of Silver Pavilion. Built in 1482 as a retirement villa for the eighth shogun of the Muromachi Period (1333-1573), Ashikaga Yoshimasa, Ginkakuji became a center of Higashiyama culture that had a profound impact on Japan. Refinement of arts such as the tea ceremony and flower arrangement took place here. When Ashikaga Yoshimasa died in 1490, the villa was converted to a Zen temple.

This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Hiroshima: This city’s history goes back to Warring States Period, when a regional ruler named Mōri Terumoto made this place his seat of power in 1589. Hiroshima is best known as the first city where the atomic bomb was dropped.

Hiroshima Peace Memorial: It is better known as the Atomic Bomb Dome, but it is actually a large complex with several buildings and serves as a memorial for those who died as the result of the atomic bomb that was dropped on this city on 6 August 1945.

This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Okinawa: The island of Okinawa is part of the Ryūkyū Islands. With its royal heritage, long contact with China and distinctive dialect, the Okinawan culture is unique. During WWII, the last battle in the Pacific was fought in Okinawa.

Shuri Castle: Shuri Castle was the center of the Ryūkyū kingdom from late 1300’s to 1879. The royal court was located at this castle, but it was much more than an administrative and political center. Not only did commercial activities flourish here, but also it was the heart of the Ryūkyū culture. The original Shuri Castle was completely destroyed during WWII.

This is an UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Eisa: Eisa is an example of the uniqueness of the Okinawan culture. Its origin goes back to the folk traditions, where the young people paid their respect to their ancestors by parading through the neighborhood playing drums. Eisa’s lively rhythms and movements are unique, and now there are many Eisa troupes in Okinawa and other parts of Japan.

Honolulu: The 50th state of USA, Hawai’i is similar to the Ryūkyū Islands in that it was a kingdom with a unique culture. Honolulu (“sheltered bay” in Hawaiian) is the state capital and has been the center of politics and economy. It is perhaps the most diverse city in Hawai’i, as people from various parts of the world came to the islands as immigrants. This immigration continues today, bringing a new layer of cultural dimension to Hawai’i.

Pearl Harbor: Pearl Harbor is now under the National Park Service and part of “World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument” that includes sites in Alaska and California. It was after the attack on Pearl Harbor that United States entered the war against Japan. USS Arizona Memorial is the final resting place for many crewmen who lost their lives during the attack by Japan on 7 December 1941. This is a National Historic Landmark site.

Hawai’i’s Plantation Village: Many people in Hawai’i are descendants of those who came to the islands to work on the plantations. Coming from Japan, China, Korea, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico as well as other places, they were all looking for a better life. This village is an outdoor museum that represents the plantation community from approximately 1850’s to 1950’s.
During the 2011-2012 academic year, I was the Wyatt Fellow and the program’s theme was “Japan: Tradition and Change.” In May 2012, I took ten students, all history majors, to Japan for about a three-week study abroad tour. We visited several cities, many historical sites, mingled and chatted with university professors and students from Kitakyūshū University and Kagoshima University. The students, or Wyatt travelers, commented that “it was a once in a life time experience” and/or “it was a life changing experience.” It was clearly a remarkable time in their lives. Indeed, it was a pleasure to have been part of this experience and it was one of the high points in my teaching career. It was a remarkable time for me too.

The faculty members of the History Department selected me as the Wyatt Fellow for the second time. This is truly a privilege and honor. The 2014-2015 Wyatt Exploration Program’s theme is “Japan: Its History and People.” This year long program will include a lecture series, film series and taiko (Japanese drums) performance. It will conclude in May 2015 with a study abroad tour to Japan, including Okinawa, and Hawaii. The Wyatt Exploration program is in its sixth year, and we have taken history majors to Poland, Virginia, Japan and Wales. We have enriched the lives of our students through these trips, where students not only came in contact with the histories that they had studied but also with different cultures. I hope that the May 2015 trip will be just as rewarding as other Wyatt trips abroad.

The University of Michigan-Flint has gone through many changes over the years. When I arrived at the university in 1989, internationalization/globalization was barley visible. The only study abroad tour was to Egypt that took place occasionally. Foreign students rarely enrolled at our campus and the International Center didn’t exist. The idea of student housing was just that, an idea. Internationalization/globalization was low on the university’s priorities. We have come a long way! Now, we have several university sponsored study abroad tours to various parts of the world. And in the History Department, we have our own study abroad tours through the Wyatt Exploration Program. Indeed, we have to thank Dorothea Wyatt for making this possible.

I am a frequent visitor to Japan, and my first extended stay was during my graduate school days. It was exciting to visit places I had studied and to conduct research in Japan. I did not have any difficulties with the language, but I had to quickly learn the proper way of doing things in Japan. Yes, the custom was different. Soon, Japan became a country that was beyond my research interests. I acquired a greater appreciation of its history, culture and people. I will be sharing my knowledge and experience to make this trip more meaningful, but there will be discourses with Japanese students. Through these dialogues, I hope that students will not only come to better understand each other but also develop friendships. It is a pleasure to lead another Wyatt trip this time to Japan and Hawai’i.

Roy S. Hanashiro, Ph.D.
The generous bequest of Dr. Dorothea E. Wyatt has made the Wyatt Exploration Program possible. A stalwart supporter of her university and her discipline, Dr. Wyatt made this extraordinary gift to further develop and improve the program in history here at UM-Flint.

A graduate of Stanford University, Dr. Wyatt was one of the original sixteen faculty members of the Flint College of the University of Michigan when it was founded in 1956. She was the first chair of the Department of History and she served as the University's Counselor to Women, the Secretary to the Governing Faculty, and on countless university, college, and departmental committees throughout her career. An adored teacher, Dr. Wyatt specialized in American cultural and women's history. She was an unflagging advocate for the humanities and women's issues. In 1989, the UM-Flint recognized her dedication to the university and these issues by creating an award in her name for faculty and staff members who work to better the status of women on campus. In 1974, Dr. David M. French spoke of Dr. Wyatt's uniquely personal contribution to the university, writing, "Her greatness of spirit, her generosity, her sincere interest in students young and old... and the uninhibited way she has always shared her joy in learning and scholarship with those around her have run like a golden thread through the eighteen years since the Flint college was founded." As a scholar, Dr. Wyatt is primarily known for her biography of Julia S. Tutwiler (1841-1916), an early advocate for women's rights and educational reform in Alabama.

Dr. Wyatt was active in the local community and served a variety of organizations, including the American Association of University Women, the Zonta Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the Genesee County Library Board. She retired as a Professor Emeritus in 1975. Shortly before her retirement, Dr. Wyatt wrote:

What has brought us together as students and faculty in our University of Michigan-Flint College has been an abiding faith in education. We have all been seekers after knowledge: of ourselves, of the world about us, and of the ideas and ideals that have stirred and enriched mankind... For the true object of a college education is not to learn all that one will ever want to know but to acquire the ideas, habits, and methods needed in the continuous process of educating oneself during the years to come.

The Department of History at the University of Michigan-Flint is proud to be the heir of that spirit and philosophy. We believe that the Wyatt Exploration Program and other opportunities provided by Dr. Wyatt's generosity will be a fitting testament to the life of this fine teacher, scholar, and advocate.
For our 2014 Wyatt Exploration Program, we asked a bold but simple question: What if we didn’t go anywhere? It was this question that led to the development of our theme that year – Flint, The Alien City. The goal of the program was twofold. Like all Wyatt Explorations, we sought to engage students with a special place and time in novel ways. For Flint, students and community members were invited to events and lectures to think about Flint’s past in ways that diverge from the standard narrative. More than simply a vehicle city, the Alien City was a foreign and unknown place. This premise, that most people do not truly know the city and its history guided the variety of activities for the year. Secondly, we were curious if the Wyatt Exploration Program could attract students absent the promise of an expedition at the end of the year. As the 2014 Wyatt Scholar, I was pleasantly surprised that students, faculty, and members of the community turned out in promising numbers to explore Flint, The Alien City.

We began our exploration with a Vintage Base Ball Game between the Lumber City Base Ball Club and the Saginaw Old Golds. The match proved a bit lop sided, but everyone enjoyed the game and I appreciated players willingness to engage students to talk about the match.

Next we visited historic Glenwood Cemetery. One of the city’s true gems, Glenwood is home to two Michigan governors, Flint mayors, and who’s who of Flint entrepreneurs. The resting places of these Flint icons are adorned with spectacular funerary art amidst rolling hills and heavily wooded lots – all in the heart of the city. Fifty visitors enjoyed walking tours, fine food, and a beer tasting from Redwood Catering.
From Glenwood, we spent an evening in a stunning example of Gilded-Age architecture at the Whaley Historic House Museum. The former home to one of the city’s elite and generous banking families, a mix of students and community members played board games from the nineteenth century and toured the home to take in all the beauty it has to offer.

The Wyatt Exploration Program also sponsored an exhibit loaned from the National Arab-American-Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. At a standing-room-only exhibit opening, visitors heard UM-Flint alumni and scholar of Arab-American history, Prof. Hani Bawardi tell the story of Flint’s Arab-American heritage. The exhibit included artifacts from local families and across the globe to tell the story of Flint’s role in the making of Arab-American culture.

We were fortunate to have some excellent speakers enlighten us on Flint’s history. Andrew Highsmith, shared his provocative insights on how Flint can provide new analysis for understanding the post-industrial metropolis. Andrea Burns offered us a fresh perspective on the “making and unmaking of Autoworld.” Since we ended our year as we began it, with baseball. Peter Morris, noted baseball historian delighted a crowded room with his narrative of baseballs transformative years in the nineteenth century and mid-Michigan’s role in changing the game.

It was a truly wonderful experience helping people learn new stories about Flint. Perhaps the true measure of success was not in the numbers of people who attended, but in the startling and novel discoveries we made together about Flint, the Alien City.