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36 SDSU Japanese Language Students Honored at 32nd Annual Award Ceremony

SAN DIEGO, May 4, 2015—Twenty-one San Diego State University students received scholarships totaling **\$8,500** for outstanding performance in Japanese language classes from Kyocera International, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Union Bank, and SDSU Office of International Programs at a May 4 ceremony at SDSU. Fifteen additional students were recognized for their outstanding achievements by the Japanese Language Program.

The winner of the **32nd Annual Kyocera Japanese Scholarship (\$1,500)** is **Mr. Christopher Bayne**, a junior majoring in Japanese and Biology. Christopher participated in a Biology Department internship in Japan for two months last summer. He studied seagrass for one month in Hiroshima and one month in Akkeshi, Hokkaido. The scholarship was presented by **Mr. John S. Rigby Jr.**, president of Kyocera International, Inc.

The recipient of the **29th Annual Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Japanese Scholarship for Accounting Majors (\$750)**, is **Ayako Bright**, a junior majoring in accounting. Ayako will study at Rikkyo University in Tokyo next year. The representative from Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu was **Ms. Hideko Galaski**, Tax Consultant, Deloitte Tax in San Diego.

The winner of **The 8th Annual Union Bank Scholarship for a Japanese Major's Study in Japan (\$1,000)** was **Alex May**, a junior majoring in Japanese and mathematics. Alex's dream is to move to Japan and work as a translator. He will be studying at Doshisha University in Kyoto next year.

The Office of International Programs (OIP) on campus provided the **6th Annual OIP Japanese Scholarships**. Three scholarships (**\$3,000** in total) were awarded to the following students by **Dr. Alan R. Sweedler**, the Assistant Vice President for International Programs:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution to attend</u>	<u>Major</u>
Alex May (\$1,250)	Doshisha University (Kyoto)	Japanese + Mathematics
Jensen Reed (\$1,250)	Gunma University	Japanese
Thomas Scullin (\$500)	Tokyo U of Foreign Studies	Japanese + Linguistics

Thanks to the generous support of Kyocera International, the best student in each section of the program was recognized as the recipient of the **29th Annual Kyocera Best Student Awards** (**\$150** per winner):

<u>Class</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Major</u>
Japanese 112	Sec. 1 De Castro, Jamie	Economics
	Sec. 2 Sablan, Kyle	Computer Science
Japanese 212	Sec. 1 May, Alex	Japanese & Mathematics
	Sec. 2 Shen, Jialu	International Business
Japanese 312	Bayne, Christopher	Japanese & Biology
Japanese 322	Bayne, Christopher	Japanese & Biology
Japanese 412	Lam, Claudia	Biology
Japanese 422	Lam, Claudia	Biology
Japanese 480	Bright, Ayako	Accounting
Japanese 495	Sec. 1-1 Chau, Robert	Japanese & Geography (Gunma U. Junior High School)
	Sec. 1-2 Padrigan, Matthew	Japanese (Gunma U. Junior High School)
	Sec. 2 Canlas, Patrick	Japanese & Interior Design (Osaka International University)

	Sec. 3	Fairchild, Cheyenne	Japanese & Linguistics (Patrick Henry High School)
Japanese 499	Sec. 1	Bright, Ayako	Accounting
	Sec. 2	Shiobara, Matsuyuki	Japanese

The Japanese Language Program honored excellent students who have demonstrated steady efforts and remarkable achievements in each class with a certificate of merit as the recipients of the **16th Annual Honorable Mention:**

<u>Class</u>		<u>Name</u>	<u>Major</u>
Japanese 112	Sec. 1	Soomin, Kim	English
	Sec. 2	Sharp, Anna	International Business
		Taylor, Felicia	Computer Science
Japanese 212	Sec. 1	Mallony, Alexandra	Aerospace Engineering
		Aguilar, Jesus	International Business
	Sec. 2	Maltezo, Jason	Japanese
		Gallardo, Gabriel	Civil Engineering
Japanese 312		Reed, Jensen	Japanese
Japanese 322		Reed, Jensen	Japanese
Japanese 412		Mitchell, Vincent	Japanese & Art
Japanese 422		Golden, Trent	International Business
		Mitchell, Vincent	Japanese & Art
Japanese 480		Mitchell, Vincent	Japanese & Art
Japanese 499	Sec. 1	Rovira, Marco	Biology (Pre-Med)
	Sec. 2	Lamattery, Aimi	Japanese

Great news about **Ms. Keanna Cash**, one of the seven SDSU **Fulbright** recipients for 2015-2016, was shared. Keanna graduated with a BA in Japanese in 2014. Her minor was Linguistics. She studied at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo during the academic year of 2012-2013. She is currently teaching English in Hiroshima and having a fabulous time working with her students whose ages range between 18 and 80. As a **Fulbright English Teaching Assistant**, she will be making a guidebook for US universities' study abroad offices, in addition to helping Turkish teachers teach English. For this guidebook project, she will work with the members of the local community to learn about the topics like Turkish food and home recipes, music, art, and education, and language. Thus, she is currently studying Turkish while teaching English in Japan.

Another amazing accomplishment by a Special Guest, **Mr. Naonori Suto**, was shared. Naonori is an exchange student from **Gunma University** in Japan with which SDSU has been enjoying a steady and fruitful relationship over 30 years. Naoto represented SDSU at the 19th Annual Harvard-Invitational *Shoryuhai* Intercollegiate Kendo Tournament held at Harvard University in March 2015 and took first place in the Individuals Competition.

Most of the students honored at the Ceremony either studied in Japan or will study there next year. There were only eight direct-exchange programs with universities in Japan when Dr. Higurashi began directing exchange programs in 1997. Thanks to SDSU's emphasis on education abroad and consistent support of Dr. Higurashi's efforts, there are now twenty direct exchange programs. Dr. Higurashi is currently in negotiation with two additional institutions. It is expected that there will be twenty-two institutions available to choose from in the Fall.

The representative from the local San Diego community was **Ms. Satoko Yoshida**, the editor of *Lighthouse San Diego*.

Attendees of the awards ceremony, held at SDSU's Bioscience Center, included **Dr. Chukuka S. Enwemeka**, Provost and Senior Vice President; **Dr. Stephen C. Welter**, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate Division; **Dr. Thomas Scott**, former Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate Division; **Dr. Alan R. Sweedler**, Assistant Vice President for International Programs; **Dr. Geoffrey Chase**, Dean, Division of Undergraduate Studies; **Dr. Eniko Csomay**, Associate Dean, representing **Dr. Paul Wong**, Dean, College of Arts and Letters; **Dr. Ghada Osman**, Chair, Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages; **Professor Kotaro Nakamura**, Chair, School of Art and Design; **Dr. Atsushi Nara**, Department of Geography, **Dr. Janie Chang**, Chair, School of Accountancy; **Ms. Maria Williamson** and **Ms. Marisela LaPlante**, representing **Dr. John Putman**, Chair, International Business Program; **David Rudel**, Assistant Director, Education Abroad, International Student Center (ISC), **Ms. Kathie Laplumbo**, ISC's Education Abroad Advisor; **Dr. Yoshiko Higurashi**, Director of the Japanese Language Program and Japan International Programs; and Japanese language faculty (**Dr. Ryu Kitajima**, **Ms. Asuka Kuratani**, **Ms. Momoko Rothenhaus**, **Ms. Erika Mukoyama**, and **Ms. Hisaka Tachibana**).

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