



Edited by Laura Kiernan

Kiyomoto Ogasawara Visits Carleton

By Laura Kiernan

On Friday, November 8th, Carleton and the Northfield community had the immense honor of hosting Kiyomoto Ogasawara sensei (“sensei” means teacher in Japanese) for a talk entitled “Samurai Spirit Alive.” It was Ogasawara sensei’s first time visiting Minnesota. As Asuka Sango (Religion professor) acknowledged in her introduction to the event, this visit was years in the making. It was a perfect moment for students in her class, “Samurai: Ethics of Death and Loyalty” (see article below) to put their coursework into perspective from a modern Samurai. Ogasawara sensei is the 32nd heir to the school of Ogasawara, an 830-year-old family tradition that teaches etiquette, archery, and horsemanship of Japan’s warrior class. Ogasawara sensei emphasized that his is one of the few Samurai-training schools that still teach mounted archery.



Ogasawara sensei’s talk was broken into three parts. First, he guided the audience through a brief history lesson on Japanese emperors (his family name was in fact given by the emperor himself, a common reality for many other Samurai families). He then introduced us to basic terms for understanding Samurai, from *kyūba-jutsu* (mounted archery) to *kyū-jutsu* (grounded archery). The bulk of his talk, however, centered around Samurai lifestyle. For example, in its origin, the tradition of etiquette (*reihō*) developed in his family was mainly targeted toward the Samurai class. But it is now taught for all Japanese people, covering topics such as good posture and formal attire. His talk, thus, proved the importance of the Samurai culture in modern life. Indeed, their spirit is kept very much alive.

Overall, the event was a beautiful experience of multicultural exchange. I have never been to a talk at Carleton conducted in a foreign language. Ogasawara sensei spoke mostly in Japanese with translation assistance from Carly Born, a local Japanese archery instructor and Academic Technologist at Carleton, who co-taught the Samurai course with Sango. Many in the audience spoke Japanese, and were the first to respond to Ogasawara’s comments. The delicious dinner that followed gave the audience a chance to discuss the talk together, as a mixed group of students, faculty and community members. My table included two students in Sango’s class, one international student from Japan, two Carleton staff members, and two community members who practice Japanese archery. This was demonstrative of the diversity of the crowd. The students expressed their excitement

(and nervousness!) for Ogasawara sensei to observe their archery class the next morning. “We are in the presence of a master,” one student said to me. Ogasawara sensei’s visit was sponsored by Asian Studies, Center for Community & Civic Engagement, Class of ‘57 Visiting Scholars for Interdisciplinary Studies, Japan Foundation, Public Works and Department of Religion.



Ogasawara sensei demonstrates to the crowd the difference between a strung and unstrung bow.



A delightful dinner in the Great Hall followed the talk.

the Northfield High School to practice Japanese archery with a group of more experienced practitioners or *senpai* in Northfield.

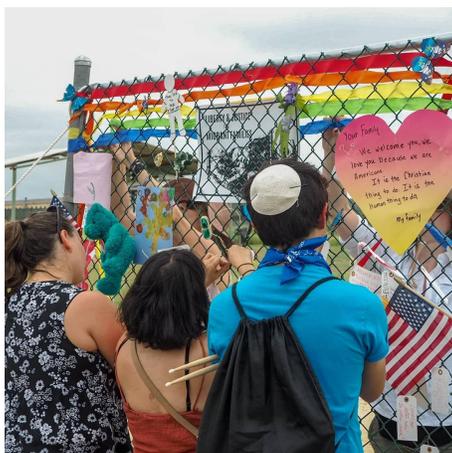
RELG 289: Global Religions in Minnesota

Global Religions in Minnesota is a course that explores the history and contemporary implications of rapidly increasing religious diversity in the state. The course looks to the long standing traditions indigenous to Minnesota but mainly explores both how Minnesota is changed — both enlarged and challenged — by the diversity brought by various immigrant and refugee communities, and how global religious traditions are changed through their engagement with the United States. The academic civic engagement piece of the course is that students create public scholarship case studies for eventual publication on ReligionsMN, a public scholarship website that aims to educate Minnesotans about religious diversity in our midst.

What Did Religion Majors Do This Summer?

By Laura Kiernan

We were, quite literally, all over the world! To give you an idea: Ella Barzel ('21) worked as a campaign manager for Environment Minnesota — a non-profit environmental organization in Minneapolis. Malika Adda-Berkane ('20) interned with Habitat para la humanidad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Henry Brown ('21) interned at an interfaith progressive NGO called Texas Impact in Austin. Guapo Banuelos ('20) researched the linkage of anti-communism, anti-foreignness, and anti-Blackness during the 20th century at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, NYC. Laura Kiernan ('20) traveled to Paris, France to work at a refugee organization and conduct interviews for her comps. Please enjoy a sampling of their photos below:



A protest to end migration detentions in Austin. Photo taken by Henry



Malika visiting Iguazu Falls in Argentina



Guapo holding Louis Armstrong's trumpet

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Pearson Wins Her Age-Group, Anderson Also Runs

By Laura Kiernan



Our department had a very good showing at the Defeat of Jesse James Day race this year! Here's some inspiring quotes from Lori and Sonja (it is hard to reach them these days - their offices are usually crowded with ESPN reporters):

"I'm grateful that my students and my teaching keep me young as I dash speedily into the older decades of life!"
- Lori Pearson

"I got two free t-shirts!" - Sonja Anderson