

# Language for Americans

*Natsumi Hayashi and Sara Barrera,*

Valdosta State University

# Natsumi Hayashi

Japanese Language Instructor at VSU  
Since Fall 2013

Taught Japanese language for foreign  
students at Osaka YMCA International  
College in Japan



# Sara Barrera

Graduate student of History and  
MESLAT at VSU

Graduate Assistant at the English  
Language Institute at VSU

TESOL Certified Instructor

Currently learning Japanese, Latin,  
and Turkish.



# *Why Language?*

- Everything is international.
- Students need the ability to communicate and understand others.
- Language is the key for careers, success, and achieving a more tolerant global society.

# *Student Success: What does that mean?*

A global minded student who after graduation can efficiently use their targeted language to pursue their business or academic career within today's multicultural society.

# THE JAPANESE PROGRAM at Valdosta State University.

Natsumi Hayashi  
Japanese Language Instructor

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1. LANGUAGE: *The Path* *FOR STUDENT SUCCESS!*
2. TECHNOLOGY: *The Aid* *FOR STUDENT SUCCESS!*
3. CULTURE: *The Experience* *FOR STUDENT SUCCESS!*



# *Language the path*

***Why is it important for Americans to learn Japanese?***



# ***JAPAN***

- A country with long historical traditions, different religious and philosophical perspectives, and a society founded in community.
- Modern Japan is famous for its advanced technology and anime pop culture which has influenced the world.
- The United States Department of the State in their Critical Language Program states, ***“The Japanese language will give [a person] a competitive edge among Americans seeking to engage in East Asia's booming global market.”***



How can the Japanese language help American students succeed?

*VSU offers:*

Beginning Japanese Language / Introduction Japanese Culture

**JAPN 1001**

**JAPN 1002**

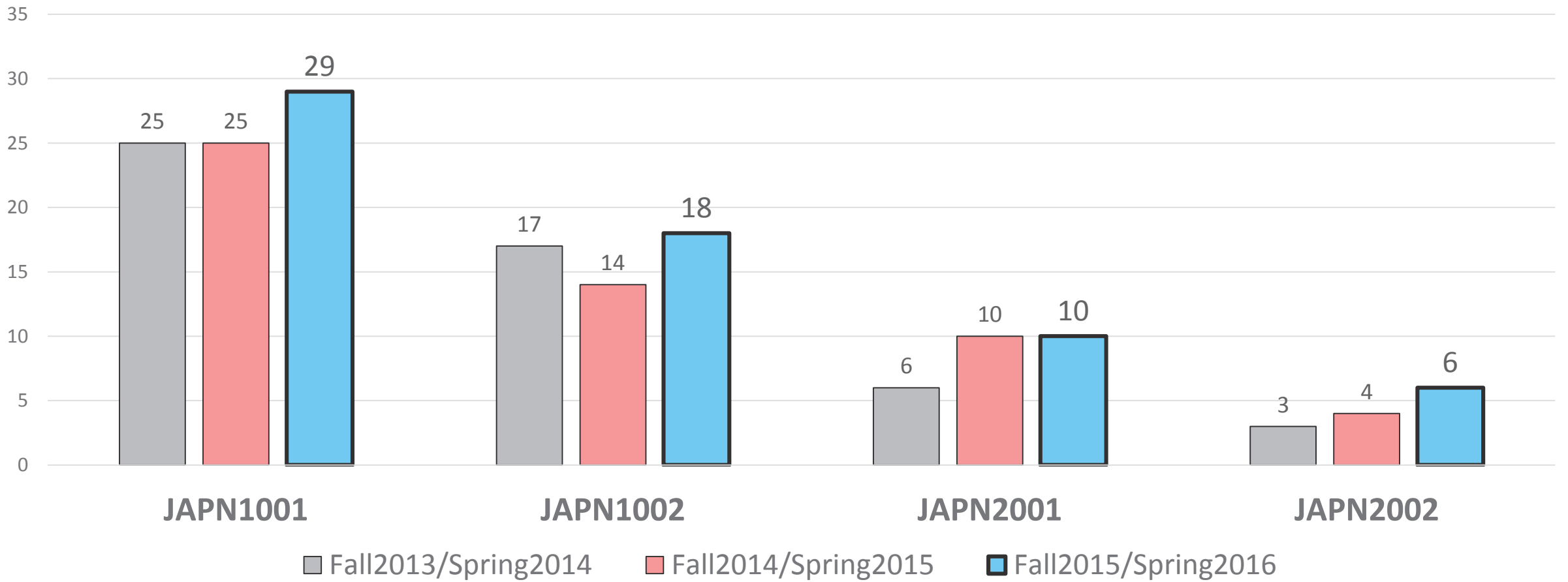
Intermediate Japanese Language / Introduction Japanese Culture

**JAPN 2001**

**JAPN 2002**



# Japanese Class Enrollment



# *Summer Study Abroad in Japan*

Summer study abroad programs in Japan have been occurring since the past 5 years.

- Summer 2010 12
- Summer 2011 13
  - \*Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in 2011
- Summer 2012 0 (program cancelled)
- Summer 2013 0 (program cancelled)
  
- Summer 2014 8
- Summer 2015 12 **total 45 students**
- Summer 2016 10 (projection)



(Center for International Programs)

## *Exchange programs in Japan*

Exchange programs in Japan over the past 5 years

- Spring 2011 1
- Spring 2013 1
- Fall 2014 1
- Spring 2015 2
- Fall 2015 2
- Spring 2016 2 **total 9 students**
- Summer 2016 1 (projection)
- Fall 2016 3 (projection)

\*Exchange programs with J.F. Orberlin University, Otemon Gakuin University and Tama University



(Center for International Programs)

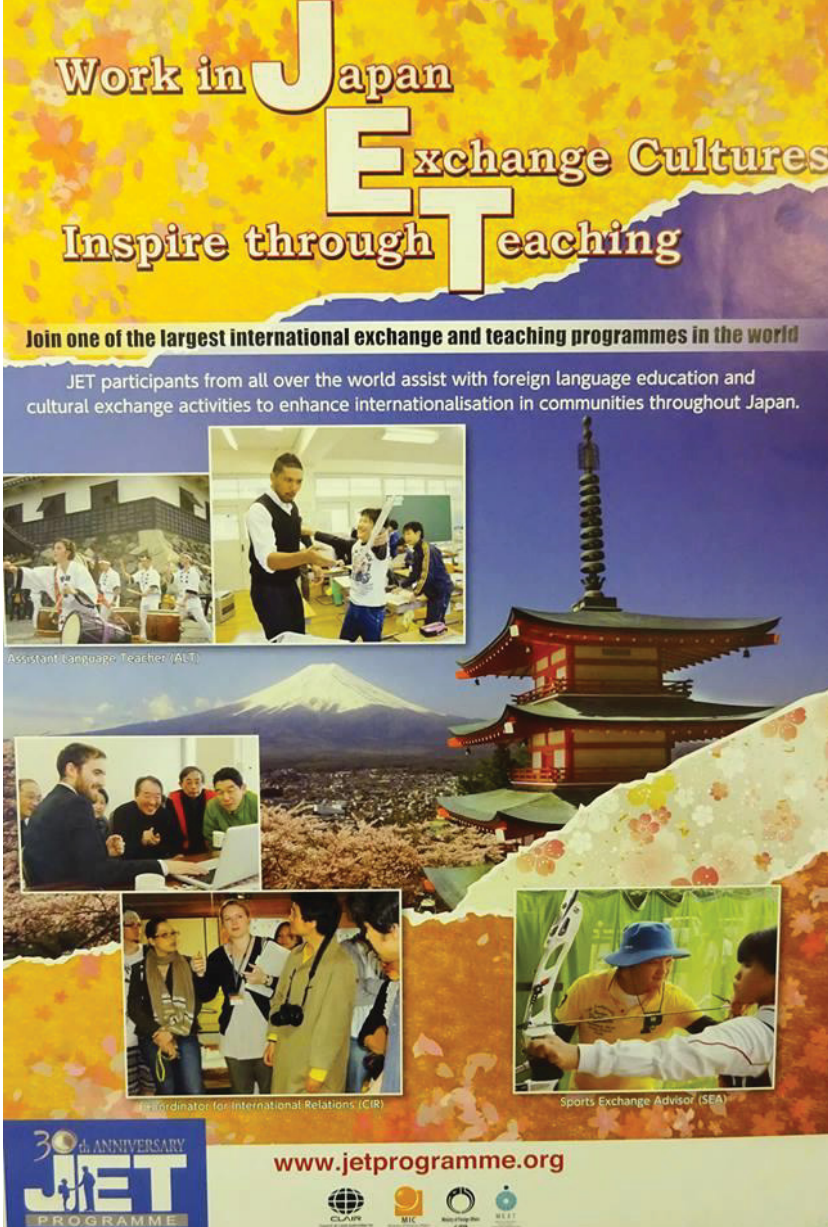


# Job Opportunities

## The JET Program

### The Japan Exchange and Teaching Program

- As a government English language teacher in Japan
- Official JET Program Information Session at VSU  
(Fall 2015)
- ***At least 7 students applied for the JET Program 2016***



Work in **J**apan  
**E**xchange Cultures  
Inspire through **T**eaching

Join one of the largest international exchange and teaching programmes in the world

JET participants from all over the world assist with foreign language education and cultural exchange activities to enhance internationalisation in communities throughout Japan.

Assistant Language Teacher (ALT)

Coordinator for International Relations (CIR)

Sports Exchange Advisor (SEA)

30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
**JET**  
PROGRAMME

[www.jetprogramme.org](http://www.jetprogramme.org)

CLASP  
MIC  
JET

The poster features a collage of images: a classroom with students and a teacher, a man in a vest interacting with children, a group of people around a laptop, a traditional Japanese pagoda, and a person in a blue hat. The background is a scenic view of Mount Fuji and cherry blossoms.



# *Career Fields*

Global  
Company

Composer

Business

Historian

Diplomat

Academia

International  
Relations

Ceramic  
Artist

Computer  
Programmer

Graphic  
Designer

Translator



# ***JLPT ( Japanese-Language Proficiency Test )***

## *IMPORTANCE:*

- Students can measure skill and become qualified Japanese language speakers through the JLPT which is recognized world-wide.
- Through VSU Japanese language program they can gain the necessary skills to take this test.
- In turn helping them get into the economic and job market of Asia faster.

***In short,***

- Students gain the real-world experience of intercultural connections and dynamics that the global world demands.
- This working together of language and studies expands opportunities for life *decisions and possibilities for greater success and fulfillment for students.*

*Technology-the aid.*

*How does technology improve success, in, and out, of the classroom?*



# Social media

## facebook

- Communicating with current/former VSU Japanese class students, and Japanese students.

(lifelong learning)

## ‘Japanese language square’ on facebook

- Communicating with classmates to support their learning with each other.



**Elliott Ingram** ▶ VSUにほんごひろば Japanese Language Square  
1月30日 0:17

はじめまして、わたしはエリオットイングラムです。日本語2002クラスを取っています。よろしくおねがいします。バスケットボールが大好きです。あなたはなにが大好きですか。

いいね! コメントする シェア

あなたと他2人が「いいね!」と言っています。

25人が既読

**Khafra Mills**  
漫画が好きです。今、七つの大罪(seven deadly sins)という漫画を読んでいます。読んだことがありますか?  
1月31日 23:58 · いいね! · 1 · 返信

**Elliott Ingram**  
ううん、ありません。毎日、黒執事の漫画を読んでいる。ちょっとむずかしくて、おもしろいですよ。この漫画は日本の漫画です。  
2月1日 0:03 · いいね! · 1 · 返信

**Khafra Mills**  
そうか。その漫画を読みたいのですが、つまらなそうですね。アクションの漫画ですか?(ナルトのようです)。それとも少女漫画ですか?  
2月1日 0:20 · いいね! · 1 · 返信

**Elliott Ingram**  
少女漫画だ?いいえ。アクションとミステリーが大好きだ



*Culture*  
*the experience*

**How does cultural experience through foreign language programs improve students' understanding and tolerance for other cultures?**

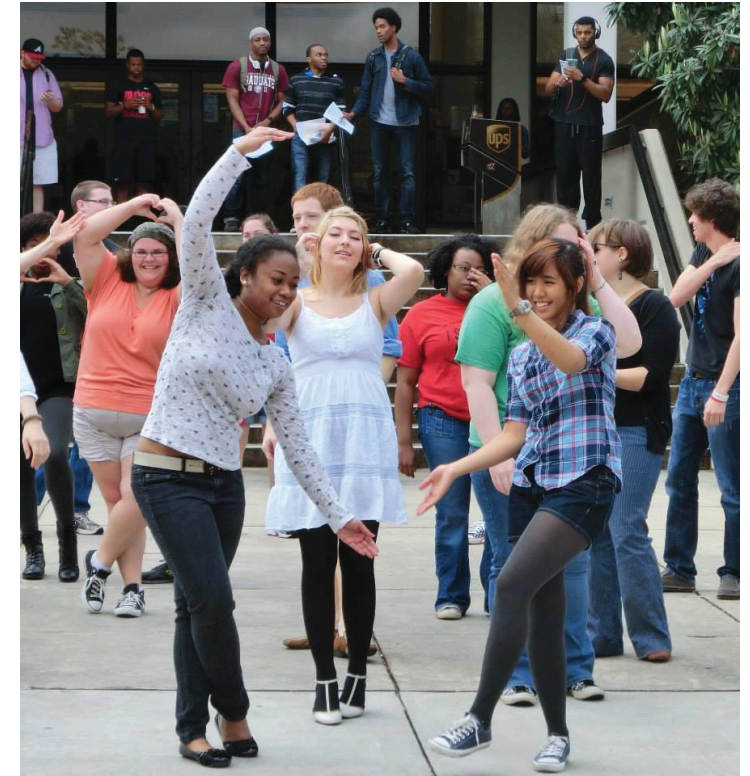


# ***J-POP DANCES INVIGORATE JAPANESE LANGUAGE STUDENTS AND OTHERS!***

- Performed at the International dinner
- Photo on April 1, 2014 *VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES*



Flash mob at VSU



<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B9wkBg0q1tcKdTzrT1IWWXUyMWc>



# *Japanese Free Conversation Hour*

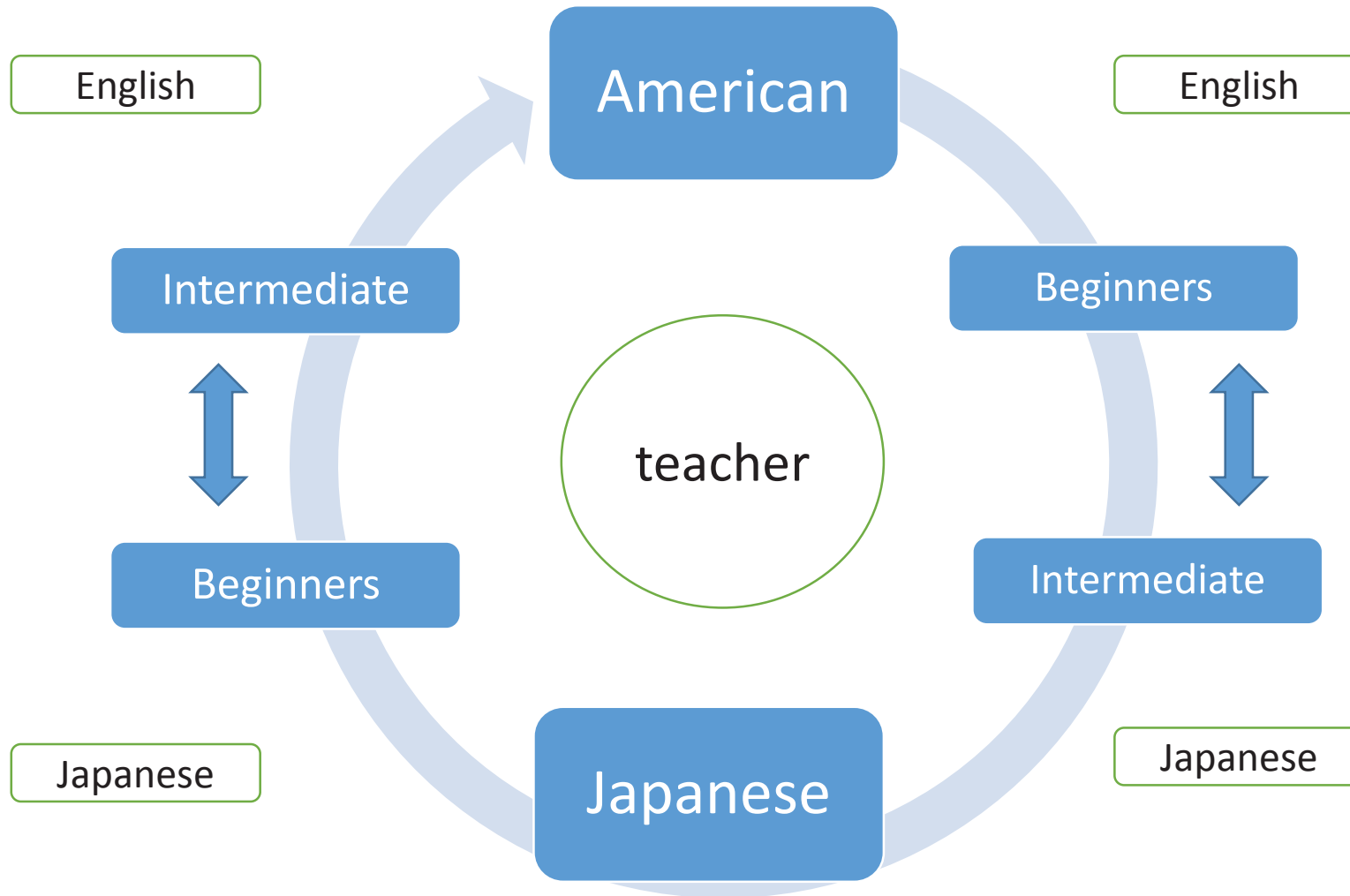
## *Out of class*

- learning Japanese customs, comparative culture, making food and conversation practice **with Japanese international students.**



# *Language Enhancement through Conversation Hour.*

Conversation practice benefits both students...





# *Asian Festival 2015 in Tallahassee*

VSU Japanese class collaborated with the Japanese community in Tallahassee



*The Asian Coalition of Tallahassee  
Experience Asia 2015*

*Awards This Certificate To*

*Tosiny Orellana*

---

*For your outstanding contribution*

*October 3, 2015*

*Lewis & Bloxham Parks  
Tallahassee, FL*

*田中涼蔵*

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*Chong Takahashi*



“Their experiences are an application of what they have learned in the classroom, from textbooks and other resources...

It is essential for teachers and colleges to provide students with repeated opportunities and encouragement.”

-Dr. Genzo Tanaka, Representative of the Japanese Community in Tallahassee, FL



# *Japanese Ceramics Workshop*

*connecting student through interdisciplinary classes.*

- Japanese potter Mr. Jack Masayasu Iizuka demonstrated for VSU students (Fall 2015)
- Japanese class collaborated with ceramics class of VSU's Art Department





# VSU Visiting Artist

October 27 - 28, 2015



## Valdosta State University Presents: Masayasu Iizuka

### About the Artist:

Mr. Masayasu Iizuka (Jack) is a Japanese Potter and ceramic artist. Born in Ichihara City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan - Mr. Masayasu graduated from Loma Linda University with his B.A. in Art 1981, then earned his Masters in Ceramics from California State University, Long Beach in 1981. He is a master at the sgraffito technique where intricate designs are etched and carved into ceramic surfaces.

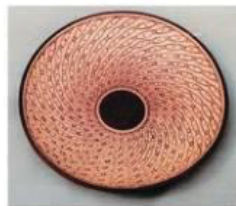
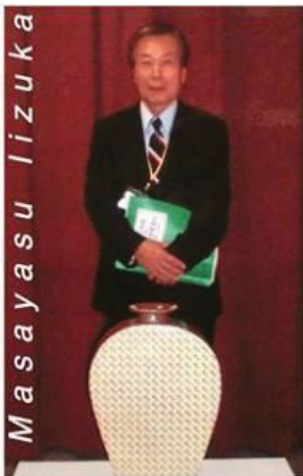
Mr. Masayasu Iizuka (Jack) will be demonstrating in the Fine Arts Building rm1054 Tuesday & Wednesday October 27 & 28th. Students, faculty, and the community are welcome to attend for FREE.

>> For information call 229-333-5835 <<  
e-mail: [mschmidt@valdosta.edu](mailto:mschmidt@valdosta.edu)

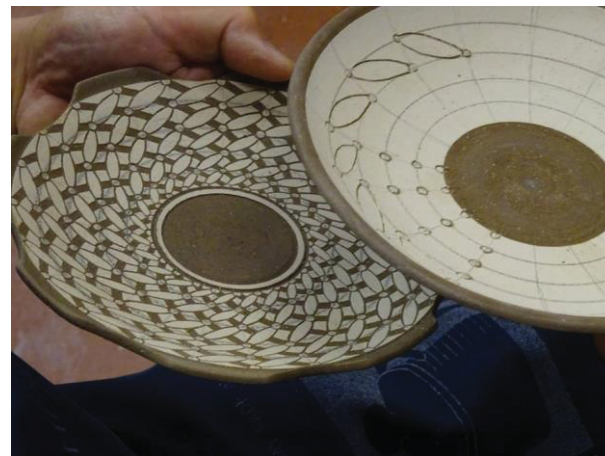
**\*\*Event is sponsored by the VSU Department of Art\*\***

**Tuesday & Wednesday**  
**Demonstration:**  
**October 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Fine Arts Bldg. rm1054 9-4pm

**Fine Arts Building rm 1054**  
**9am - 4pm**



Japanese Ceramicist Masayasu Iizuka





“We are really excited about the tea ceremony, which we will produce with the Japanese program. This will **broaden student understanding of other cultures within our university.**”

-Mark Errol, Lecturer of Art Department, Ceramics





## ***Why is Culture vital for students' success in language?***

- Cultural experience improves and offers real communication with native speakers.
- In turn, giving motivation and encouragement to the language learner.
- After these experiences, students will have more confidence to continue interaction with Japanese people.

# *Elena Harper*

*Japanese language student who used language to succeed*

- Senior, art major concentration in ceramics and jewelry, study abroad returnee.
- JAPN 1001 – Fall 2011
- JAPN 1002 – Spring 2012
- Japan Study Abroad -June 2014
  - Religion 4700 Japanese Spiritual Traditions
  - JAPN 1001
- JAPN 2001 – Fall 2015







# ***Honorable Mention - VSU Student Competition Spring 2015***

Award for "Oboeteru" based on her  
experience in Japan

"In Japan, I had fallen down some steps  
in the dark..." Harper told me her  
Japanese friends instantly came to her  
aid. Their friendship influenced her to  
produce "Oboeteru (I remember)".



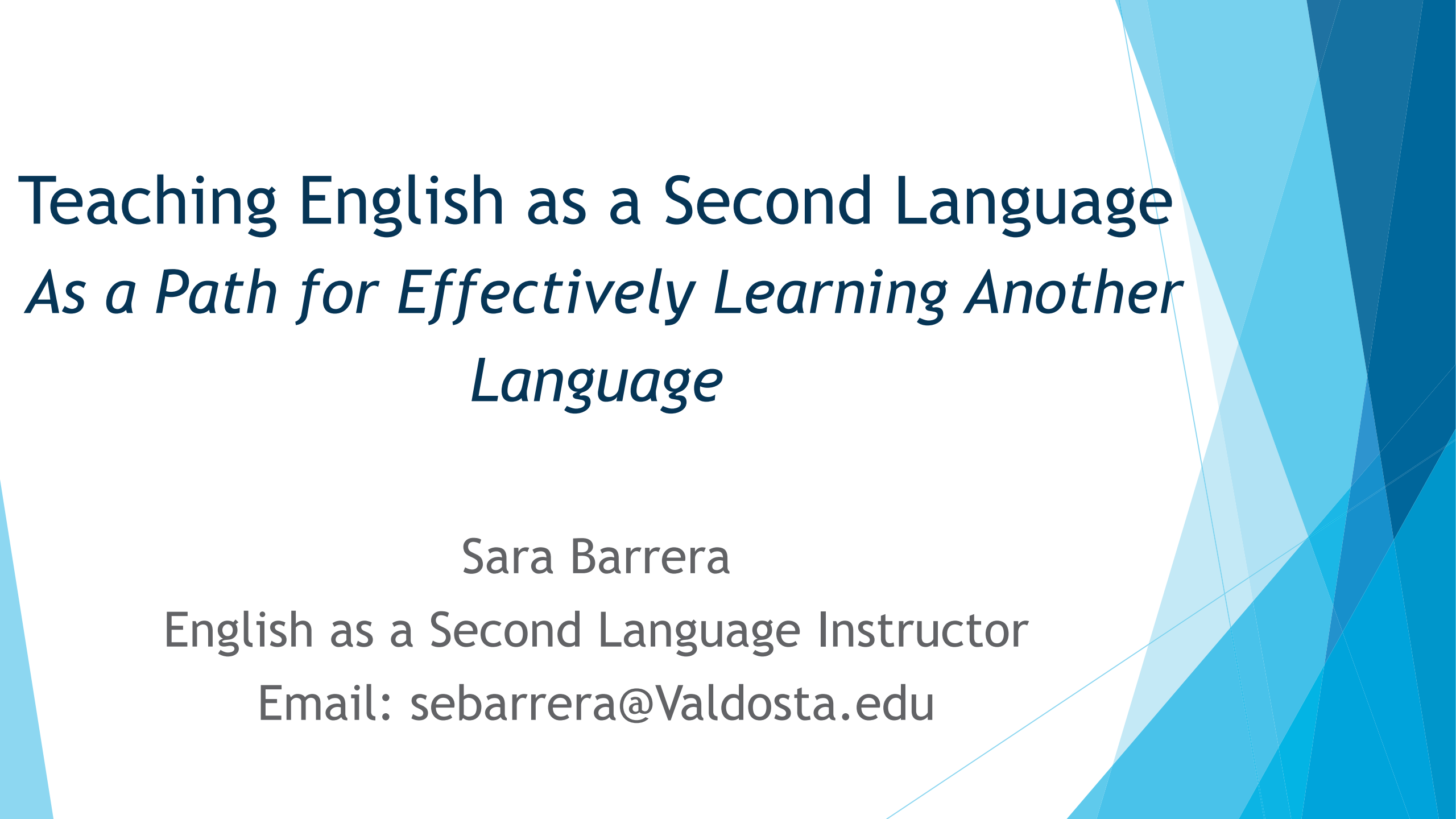
”I plan to continue my studies of the Japanese language and hope to visit again after graduation. I have also been considering joining the JET program to teach English in Japan.”

-Elena Harper

## *In conclusion, why Japanese?*

- Japanese language offers Americans a total break away from a Western mindset, giving Americans a *global* perspective.
- This mindset helps build appreciation, understanding and *tolerance* for others.
- It is *beneficial* for business and political reasons to connect with Asia.
- Japanese offers many career options to help a student be *successful* after graduation.



The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect.

# Teaching English as a Second Language *As a Path for Effectively Learning Another Language*

Sara Barrera

English as a Second Language Instructor

Email: [sebarrera@Valdosta.edu](mailto:sebarrera@Valdosta.edu)

# Why TESOL?

1. By learning how your first language works, people will be able to learn a second language more efficiently and effectively.
2. American students who need to learn a second language will benefit immensely by first learning and teaching their own language English.
3. **Three** things are achieved by learning how your language works, which will help you achieve success in your study of other languages.

**974,926** international students  
studied at U.S. colleges and universities in 2014/15.

Open Doors is conducted by the Institute of International Education  
with the support of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
of the U.S. Department of State. Online at: [www.iie.org/opendoors](http://www.iie.org/opendoors)

opendoors®

**\$30.8 billion** was contributed to the U.S. economy  
by international students in 2014/15. (Source: U.S. Department of Commerce)

Open Doors is conducted by the Institute of International Education  
with the support of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
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opendoors®

1. Understanding  
of the process of language learning.

2. Tolerance  
of other cultures.

3. Effectiveness  
of learning a second language.

“Do you know what a foreign  
accent is?

It’s a sign of bravery”

-Amy Chua Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother

# 1. Understanding the Language Learning Process

- As native speakers of English we never once have to stop and think why and how we use our language. We just speak - and poof, beautiful English.
- Furthermore, in a study conducted, *“Less than 1 percent of American adults today are proficient in a foreign language.”*





- Once I started teaching English and learning the rules and complexities of our language, I began to realize the frustrations of articles, the maddening overuse of prepositions, and the strange and sometimes useless use of do.

- To try to understand a concept which has never existed conceptually in one's mind is a hard task already.
- Then to try to remember to always speak it in the right place, at the right time!
- ***Now, that's a difficult task indeed!***

## 2. Tolerance of Other Cultures

- Once I was able to understand and empathize with a second language learner, this led me to become more tolerant of not only their language, but of their culture and identity as well.
- I learned about them in order to help them learn better about English.
- With languages there is always a two way interaction of dialogue and culture.



### 3. Efficiency in learning a second language

After teaching the dynamics of my own language, I was able to learn another language faster and more efficiently than I had done before my TESOL experience.

# 1. Mistakes

- *Language is not a subject. It is a skill, and to improve a skill it must be applied constantly not just studied.*
- Mistakes are integral part of language learning that helps the language learner apply their language and become confident in doing so.





## 2. Language learning needs to be fun, engaging, and communicative.

- I found that studying and learning from a textbook was the last thing I wanted to do or that motivated me to learn English.
- ***And if I did not like to do it neither would my students.***



### 3. Tricks of the Trade

- Don't focus on the individual parts but focus on the whole!
- Language is a structure.
- This means certain parts belong to certain areas.

For example,

I eat food. => this is a correct English sentence.

S V (O).

Food eat. => this is not a correct English sentence.

O V.

- It has the English parts, but there are not in the English language structure.
- Instead, *this is a Japanese sentence using English words.*

The Japanese sentence

would go like this => tabemono wo tabemasu.

たべもの を たべます。

*Moreover*, English has many collocations which cannot be changed around or supplemented.

**Ex.** Life, liberty, and the *pursuit of* happiness.

I cannot say Life, liberty, and the *pursuit for* happiness.

Pursuit of always stays together.

***We just have to memorize and accept it as it is.***



## In short,

- Being a TESOL teacher I have much more confidence and motivation to learn a second language when I know I can teach my own language.
- By working through the cultural dynamics of my diverse classroom, I also know I have the abilities to be actively a part of this global world.
- Having American students learn their own language enhances their abilities in cultural adaptability, understanding of others, and learning a second language.



# *CONCLUSION*

- Efficient and clear communication is vital for the future generations.
  - Being successful will depend on language abilities.
  - As language teachers at an American University, we want to promote, and encourage this drive towards language for Americans, either by learning a language, or teaching it, so our students will be successful in this global world.
- Natsumi Hayashi and Sara Barrera

Thank you !

ありがとうございました！