Associate Teaching Professor Haruko Wakabayashi (2nd from right) spoke on Rutgers' contributions to the Japanese diplomatic embassy of 1872 at the event, “Japanese Eyes on America: 150 Years Since the Iwakura Mission to the U.S.”, held at the Japan Society of New York on March 24th. The recording of the panel discussion is available online: historyofjapaneseinny.org/DigitalArchive/Details/168/All/EOldest/recording/1. Also check out the special online exhibit of the Iwakura Mission presented by the Digital Museum of the History of Japanese in New York: historyofjapaneseinny.org/SpecialExhibit/Index#section1, which features a section on Rutgers' role in the embassy (under “New York”), written by Prof. Wakabayashi. Her students Suchisman Gangopdhyay (MA ‘23), Izumi Umeda (’21) and Sora Sato (’24) also contributed articles and translations for the website. Prof. Wakabayashi’s research on Rutgers’ relationship with Japan in the late nineteenth-century has been funded by the Toshiba International Foundation: toshibafoundation.com/index.html and a Rutgers Global International Collaborative Research Grant.

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Rutgers University—New Brunswick is a leading national research university and the state of New Jersey’s preeminent comprehensive public institution of higher education. We have created an exceptional learning environment for the study of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages and cultures, and recently added Tagalog/Filipino and Vietnamese to our language offerings. Our faculty members conduct cutting-edge research that is transforming their fields of study in North America and internationally.

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Xingming Wang's translation traced the presence of spotted lanternflies in Chinese classical and modern poetry to illustrate how Chinese classical, when reimagined, could be aestheticized into a poetic metaphor and anthropomorphized as a human companion. He argued the imagined interpretation of human and non-human worlds in ancient China illustrate an important type of interspecies relations.

Fulki: Grifins' Changing Views of Japan

"Fulki: Grifins' Changing Views of Japan" produced a StoryMap project on historical sites in Fukui associated with William Griffls. Their work is beautifully executed and informative, with texts in both English and Japanese, including quotes from Griffin's writings offering additional insight into the 19th-century American's experience in Japan.

Elaine Huang presented a captivating analysis of the much-beloved proverb, "The那只猴子会吃石头吗" (Does a monkey eat stones?) in "Modernity prevents human subjects from reaching their full potential.

Xingming Wang organized a workshop at the 4th Annual Translate-a-Thon on February 25, 2022, "Tracing the Spotted Lanternfly in Chinese Literary Imagination & Local Wisdom." Since its first appearance in China in 2014, the invasive Spotted Lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) has proved a serious threat to U.S. vineyards and gardens. In August 2021, New Jersey’s Department of Agriculture issued emergency regulations to “prevent the further spread of this pest” into New Jersey. "Still, the delicate beauty of the lanternfly may make people less reluctant to kill it. Indeed, the lanternfly herself is a native species to East Asia and has been a source of Chinese literary imagination ever since its appearance in the Classics of Poetry, Dining (8th-11th-century B.C.E.). Xingming's translation traced the presence of spotted lanternflies in Chinese classical and modern poetry to illustrate how Chinese classical, when reimagined, could be aestheticized into a poetic metaphor and anthropomorphized as a human companion. He argued the imagined interpretation of human and non-human worlds in ancient China illustrate an important type of interspecies relations.

"The Okinawan culture is so refreshingly rich, and the spirit of the islands is so incredibly strong. I could talk for hours about how kind and welcoming the Okinawan people have been to me, and how enchanting my time here and students have been about spreading the essence of Okinawan culture. It really begg my mind that there have been attempts to homogenize rather than celebrate this rich culture in Japan."

"Doha International School High School is the perfect fit for me and what I want as an educator. The teachers give me total trust as the main teacher of all of my lessons, and give me total freedom when it comes to lesson planning, and they are more than celebration of this rich culture in Japan."

"Studying Chinese at Rutgers has morphed as a human companion. He argued the imagined interpretation of human and non-human worlds in ancient China illustrate an important type of interspecies relations.

"And of course, the wonderful view of the crystal-clear, blue-green waters and sprawling beaches makes Okinawa such a lovely place that is usually considered a paradise."

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"As a student at Doha International School, I have been able to fully experience the international culture because I have been able to appreciate the unique culture of Okinawa and its culture will shape my experience of life here. Life here really is such a unique combination of Japan, my native country, and the island life, and the Okinawan culture."

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