How PSU fosters connections with and understanding of Japan

1. During the 2013-14 academic year, the Center for Japanese Studies sponsored eleven events that attracted nearly 2000 attendees, of which many were students and also members of the community.

2. More than twenty Portland State University (PSU) students will be studying in Japan in the coming year at universities ranging from Waseda to Sophia to Kansai Gaidai. This is the largest number of exchange students we are sending to Japan in recent memory.

3. PSU continues to host more exchange students from Japan than any other institution of higher education in Oregon, more than 100 annually (the third largest group of exchange students at PSU by country). This includes a small but very elite group admitted to the Masters in Japanese Language Pedagogy program.

4. There were no less than 167 Japanese language majors at PSU this past year, and 61 students pursued a minor in the Japanese language. Remarkably, Japanese is the second most enrolled language (after Spanish) in PSU’s Department of World Languages and Literatures. There is no other university in the continental United States where Japanese is the second most enrolled language. Of course, many hundreds more students took courses about the history, economics, and literature of Japan, among other topics.

5. Students who pursue Japanese Studies in one form or another at PSU go on to a variety of careers, and, seen from the examples this year of Ania Kotenova (a full, five-year scholarship from the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at Columbia University in order to complete the Ph.D.) and Josh Hunt (one of fifteen individuals admitted into Columbia University’s School of Journalism), they also gain admission to elite graduate programs.

6. All of the senior faculty in Japanese Studies have international reputations in their fields and are regularly asked to share their expertise at leading universities not only in the United States but also worldwide. Junior and mid-level faculty are quickly establishing themselves as leaders in their disciplines.